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WEEKEND
PHILADELPHIA
December 16-18, 2011
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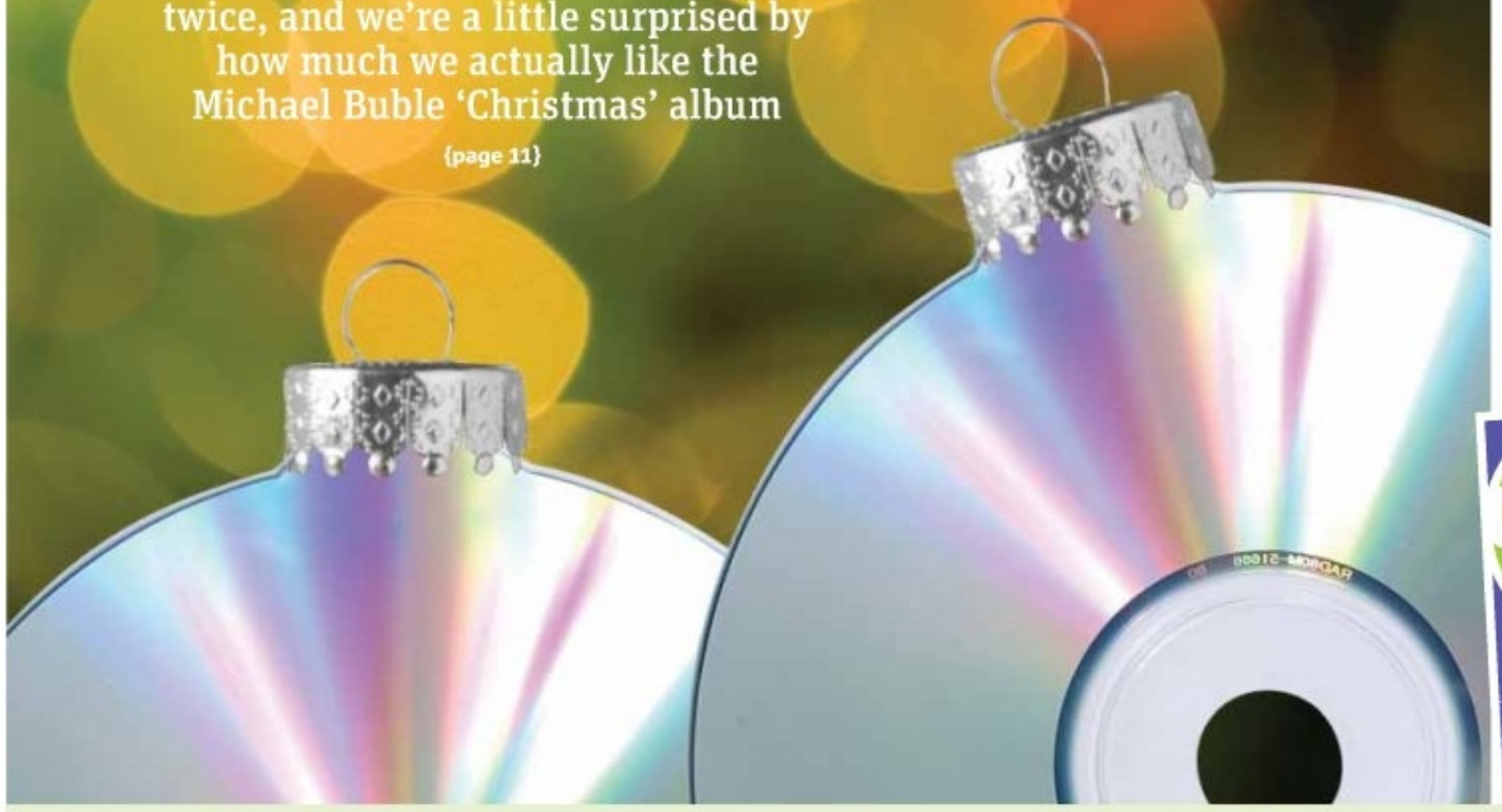
#1 DAILY NEWSPAPER IN CENTER CITY

Who's been naughty and who's been nice?

Dashing through this year's holiday music offerings is not an easy task

We've made a list and checked it twice, and we're a little surprised by how much we actually like the Michael Buble 'Christmas' album

{page 11}



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WAR IS OVER: FLAG OF US FORCES LOWERED IN IRAQ

NEWS {page 09}

DIABLO CODY TURNS IN A MATURE WORK WITH 'YOUNG ADULT'

FILMS {page 16}

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With Verna's exit, end of Council era

City's first-ever female Council president leaves along with four other local lawmakers Fresh faces will change body's look next year

The atmosphere in City Council's final session of the year Thursday was akin to the last day of school, replete with fidgeting, side conversations and a general sense of urgency to get the meeting over with.

For five, it seemed more like graduation day. Councilman Frank DiCicco, Councilwomen Donna Reed Miller and Joan Krajewski and Council President Anna Verna retired, while Councilman Frank Rizzo did not win reelection after taking the controversial DROP retirement check. After all votes had been taken, Mayor Michael Nutter arrived to give speeches about the departing members' merits.

"This is a place where I've had some of the happiest moments of my life and a place where I've had a couple of very, very sad moments," he said. "But I will miss all of you."

Verna was awarded with a bronze, engraved plaque on the wall outside of Council chambers. Another ceremony honored the others.

With 60 years under her belt, she is the longest-serving city employee in Philadelphia history and, as Councilwoman of the 2nd District for 36 years, she is the longest-serving City Councilwoman. She also became Council's first female president in 1999.

"I have spent so much time in this room over the course of my life, and it's so full of memories for me, that it's difficult to believe this is my last session as a member and as president," Verna said.

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
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RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Verna, we'll miss that smile that Philadelphians became accustomed to after 60 years in City Hall.

Correction

In Wednesday's story titled "Tension rises over 'anti-Sharia' bill," the correct quote from the Council on American-Islamic Relations Civil Rights Director Amara Chaudhry is: "The Supreme Court of the United States has already stated that religious freedom cannot be used to circumvent generally applicable laws." Metro apologizes for the error.

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Quoted: What we'll remember about three departing members

"The 10-year tax abatement. That was more successful than I anticipated."
FRANK DICICCO

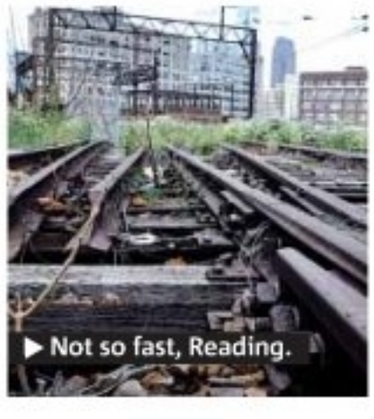
"I'm still in politics ... helping people and providing services."
DONNA REED MILLER

"There are so many issues, it's hard to say. Wissinoming Homes is one."
JOAN KRAJEWSKI

Five-decade-old zoning reform finally passed

PHILADELPHIA. City Council unanimously passed long-anticipated zoning code reform yesterday following four years of work by the Zoning Code Commission.

The new code, which governs the physical structures and land uses allowed in different sections of the city, is the first comprehensive overhaul of Philadelphia's zoning laws in nearly 50 years. METRO/AW



▶ Not so fast, Reading.

Dead or not? No one sure

PHILADELPHIA. Despite the fact that City Council's bill establishing the Callowhill Neighborhood Improvement District was rumored to be dead, City Council voted unanimously to pass it Thursday.

But opponents claimed yesterday to have a petition with signatures of from more than 50 percent of property owners against the improvement district. That would prevent its creation, they said. METRO/AW

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Tokens stolen from SEPTA station

SOUTH PHILADELPHIA. Roughly $300 worth of tokens were stolen from a station on the Broad Street Subway line early Thursday, police said.

The incident occurred around 2:45 a.m. at the Ellsworth-Federal station, SEPTA said. Authorities found the side panel on a turnstile lying on the ground. METRO/SDL

Beheaded animals dumped in Northeast

NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA. Animal humane officers on Thursday found several animal carcasses illegally dumped on a lot.

The scene was the corner of Comly and Dutton roads, where decapitated goats, chickens and ducks were discovered. The law permits humane sacrificing of animals for religious rituals, but dumping of animals is illegal. METRO/SDL

11 Beheaded animals found in the empty lot near Roosevelt Boulevard Thursday afternoon

Miracle on South 13th Street

Neighbors on South Philly really get into the Christmas spirit Their light displays are worth a gander

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Homeowners get into the spirit.

The Christmas lights centered on South Philadelphia's 1600 block of South 13th Street have become a legendary source of neighborhood mirth over the last near-quarter of a decade.

"There aren't too many blocks in Philadelphia you want to take your family to," said Tim McCandless, who enjoyed the ambiance near his work Tuesday night. "This is definitely one of them."

The lights stretch across the street and snake down residents' houses in elaborate holiday scenes. One man's entire exterior is covered with large white lights that flash like falling snow and has a box out front where kids can drop letters and receive a personal response from Santa.

Every window of his house is themed, one with a digitally rigged Santa Claus so realistic, most passersby stop and do a triple-take to determine if the St. Nick waving at them and yelling 'Merry Christmas!' from the second floor is real.

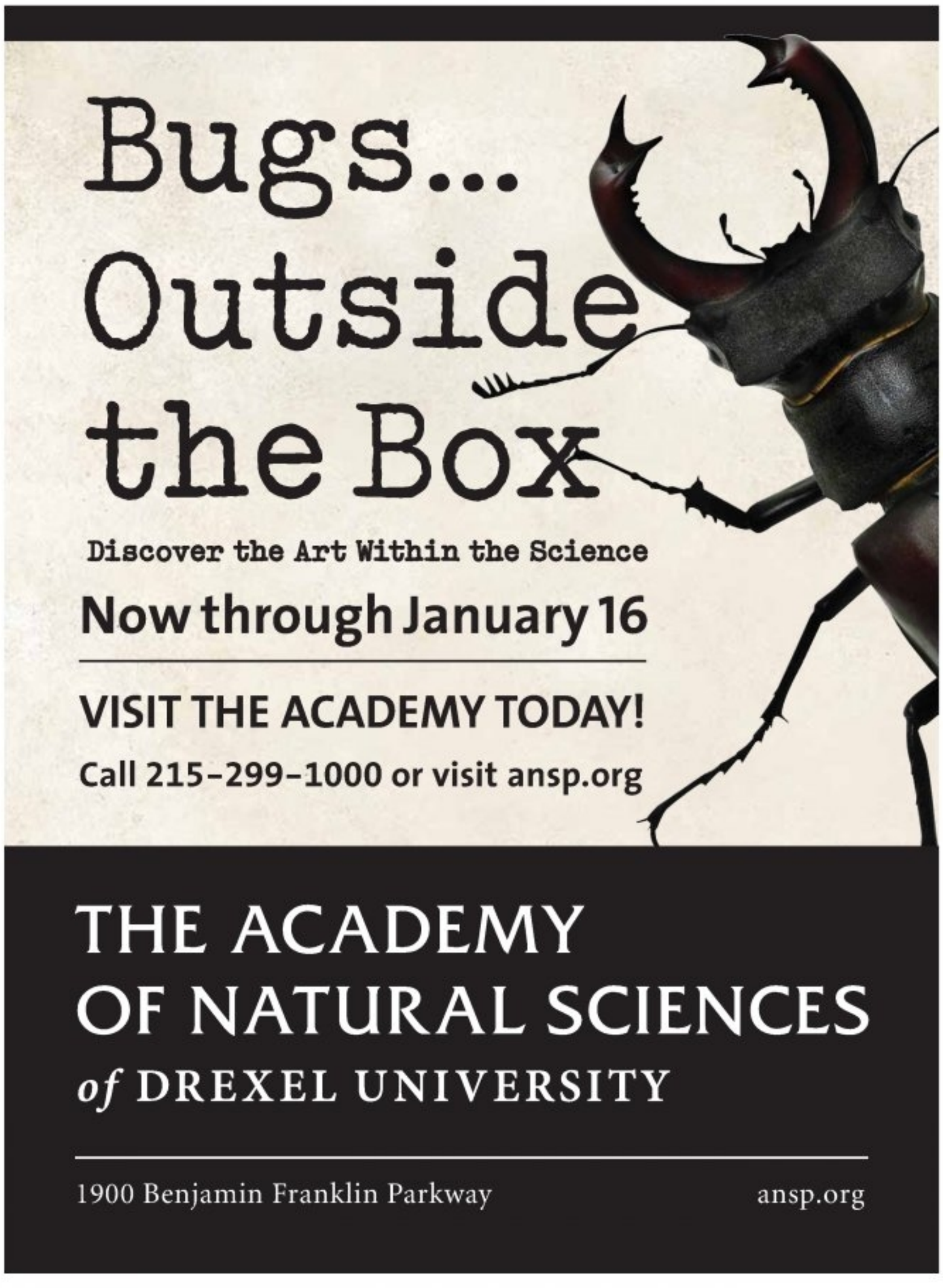
"I've never seen anything like that window before," said Bridget Palumbo, a visitor from outside the city who was passing by one night last week.

"We have started the lights slowly but surely, adding each year and making it better," Matijosaitis said. "Years ago, all we had was strip lighting from house to house. This more or less got started by people saying, 'Let's help each other out.'"

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

The tradition:

- **Neighbors began** the display about 13 years ago, said retiree and 35-year resident Jimmy Matijosaitis, who was one of the first to begin installing it. "Everybody's involved as far as input's concerned, and everybody discusses it, but there are roughly six guys that do most of the work," he said. "The neighbors get together, but the younger guys do the actual labor."
- **Matijosaitis said** that the installation takes about two or three weekends. As for the ostentatious digital-Santa house, "I would say he spends three weekends on just that alone."
- **Each homeowner** pays for the electricity used by lights on their property, which must be turned on by 5 p.m.



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Bus driver finds $4K, turns it in

He might be city's most honest human being ◗ SEPTA says its likely most valuable lost-and-found item ever ◗ Woman who lost cash tracked down

A SEPTA bus operator made a surprising discovery last week at the end of his route: $4,000 in cash.

Officials said the money was left in small purse on board Route 56. Inside was the money, a business card for an insurance agent and a player's card for Parx Casino in Bensalem. Through a series of phone calls, employees at the Midvale bus depot were able to track down the owner of the bag.

"There was a verification process to confirm that it was their money, but nobody contacted [Midvale] and said 'I lost $4,000,'" SEPTA spokesman Andrew Busch said.

The money belongs to an Asian woman who does not speak English, and she has made arrangements to pick it up, Busch said. The $4,000 was the largest amount of money found on SEPTA property in recent memory, he said.

"The fact that it did not have anything in there with the person's name, it was really good detective work by the staff out at Midvale and the operator also to get this back to the right person," Busch added.

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C bus route renamed in new year

SEPTA's board approved the renaming of the Route C bus into two distinct routes on Thursday. Under the move, Route 16 will operate from Cheltenham and Ogontz loop to City Hall, and Route 4 from 11th and Nedro to Broad and Pattison. The change is aimed at reducing confusion. Service levels will remain the same, SEPTA said. The change will take effect Feb. 19. METRO/SDL

RICARD LABMA/METRO

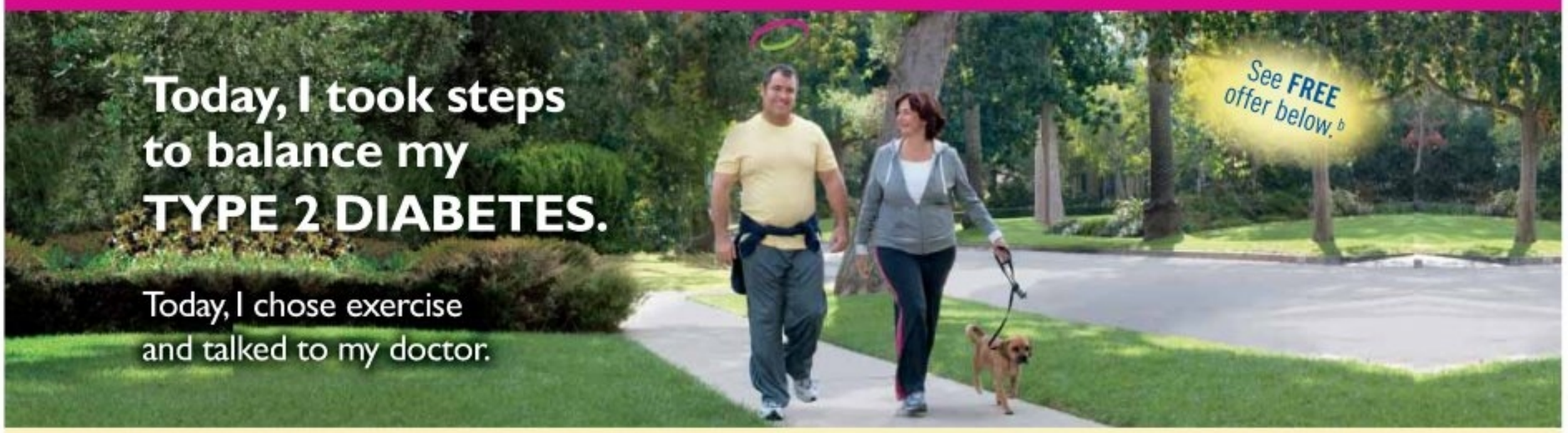
Funeral. Cardinal Foley

▶ A mourner pays her respects to the respected cardinal at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

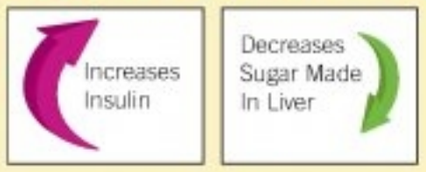
High priest mourned in Montco

A coffin holding Cardinal John Foley, the Delaware County native who rose to the highest ranks of the Catholic Church and worked among the Vatican City oligarchy, sat in the quiet chapel of the massive Archdiocesan seminary on City Line Avenue yesterday. Foley, who died Sunday, will be buried this weekend.

JANUVIA is widely available on most insurance plans.[a]



JANUVIA works to lower blood sugar in 2 ways. Talk to your doctor about JANUVIA today.



- **JANUVIA is a once-daily prescription pill that helps your body increase the insulin made in your pancreas and decrease the sugar made in your liver.**
- **Along with diet and exercise, JANUVIA helps lower blood sugar levels in adults with type 2 diabetes.**
- **JANUVIA is not likely to cause weight gain or low blood sugar (hypoglycemia).**

JANUVIA (jah-NEW-vee-ah) should not be used in patients with type 1 diabetes or with diabetic ketoacidosis (increased ketones in the blood or urine). If you have had pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas), it is not known if you have a higher chance of getting it while taking JANUVIA.

Selected Risk Information About JANUVIA: Serious side effects can happen in people who take JANUVIA, including pancreatitis, which may be severe and lead to death. Before you start taking JANUVIA, tell your doctor if you've ever had pancreatitis. Stop taking JANUVIA and call your doctor right away if you have pain in your stomach area (abdomen) that is severe and will not go away. The pain may be felt going from your abdomen through to your back. The pain may happen with or without vomiting. These may be symptoms of pancreatitis.

Do not take JANUVIA if you are allergic to any of its ingredients, including sitagliptin. Symptoms of serious allergic reactions to JANUVIA, including rash, hives, and swelling of the face, lips, tongue, and throat that may cause difficulty breathing or swallowing, can occur. If you have any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, stop taking JANUVIA and call your doctor right away.

Kidney problems, sometimes requiring dialysis, have been reported.

If you take JANUVIA with another medicine that can cause low blood sugar (hypoglycemia), such as a sulfonylurea or insulin, your risk of getting low blood sugar is higher. The dose of your sulfonylurea medicine or insulin may need to be lowered while you use JANUVIA. Signs and symptoms of low blood sugar may include headache, drowsiness, weakness, dizziness, confusion, irritability, hunger, fast heart beat, sweating, and feeling jittery.

Your doctor may do blood tests before and during treatment with JANUVIA to see how well your kidneys are working. Based on these results, your doctor may change your dose of JANUVIA. The most common side effects of JANUVIA are upper respiratory tract infection, stuffy or runny nose and sore throat, and headache.

Call 1-888-JANUVIA or visit Januvia.com.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

[a] Fingertip Formulary, LLC, June 2011.

Please see the Medication Guide on the next page and discuss it with your doctor.

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Januvia® (sitagliptin) tablets

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[b] **Terms and conditions apply. Please see next page.**

Eligible patients may receive a free 30-day trial supply of JANUVIA.

Dose _____mg
Offer valid for up to 30 tablets.

1. Take this voucher to your next appointment. Ask your doctor about JANUVIA.
2. Get a free 30-day trial supply of JANUVIA if your doctor says it's right for you.
No purchase is required. Not valid for refills.
JANUVIA is a prescription medication. Only your health care provider can decide if JANUVIA is right for you.
How this voucher works:
- This voucher can be used 1 time before the expiration date.
- To receive your free 30-day trial supply of JANUVIA, take this voucher with your valid signed prescription to any participating eligible retail pharmacy (certain restrictions apply).
- There is no requirement to purchase any product or service to receive your free 30-day trial supply of JANUVIA.
- Restrictions apply. **Please see Terms and Conditions on the back of this voucher.**
- **Expiration Date: 06/30/2012**

Prescriber
To initiate a free 30-day trial supply for an appropriate patient, you should:
- **Read the Prescribing Information before prescribing JANUVIA.**
- Write a prescription for up to 30 tablets of JANUVIA. No substitutions are permitted.
- Refills are not required and there are no requirements to purchase any product or service to use this voucher. If you want your patient to continue taking JANUVIA beyond the free trial period, please write a separate prescription based on your recommended therapy.
- Fill in the dose on this voucher.
- Give the valid signed prescription and this voucher to the patient along with the Medication Guide for JANUVIA.
- Eligible patients can take this voucher and the prescription to any participating eligible retail pharmacy to receive their free 30-day trial supply.
- For additional copies of the Prescribing Information, call 800-672-6372, visit Januvia.com, or contact your Merck representative.

Pharmacist
- Only 1 voucher may be used per patient. Voucher may not be transferred to another patient.
- There is no requirement for patient to purchase any product or service and refills are not required.
- Please ensure that the medication and dosage strength selected match the medication and dosage strength on the prescription.
- **Submit claim to McKesson Corporation using BIN No. 610524. For pharmacy processing questions, please call the Help Desk at 800-657-7613.**
- For all other prescriptions, please use the patient's primary method of payment and a new Rx number.
- By processing this voucher, you agree that no claim for payment or reimbursement may be submitted for this free trial supply to any patient or any third-party payer, including federal or state health care programs (Medicaid, Medicare [including true out-of-pocket expense (TrOOP)], or any other state or federal medical or pharmaceutical benefit or pharmaceutical assistance program), private insurers, and health or pharmacy benefit plans.
- For auditing purposes, a copy of this voucher must be attached to the original prescription and retained by the pharmacy. McKesson Corporation reserves the right to review all records and documentation relating to the dispensing of product.
- By accepting this voucher, you agree to the terms hereof.
- **No universal claim forms will be processed.**

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THIS VOUCHER IS NOT INSURANCE.

Medication Guide

JANUVIA® (jah-NEW-vee-ah) (sitagliptin) Tablets

Read this Medication Guide carefully before you start taking JANUVIA and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment. If you have any questions about JANUVIA, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

What is the most important information I should know about JANUVIA?

Serious side effects can happen in people taking JANUVIA, including inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis) which may be severe and lead to death.

Certain medical problems make you more likely to get pancreatitis.

Before you start taking JANUVIA:

Tell your doctor if you have ever had

- pancreatitis
- stones in your gallbladder (gallstones)
- a history of alcoholism
- high blood triglyceride levels
- kidney problems

Stop taking JANUVIA and call your doctor right away if you have pain in your stomach area (abdomen) that is severe and will not go away. The pain may be felt going from your abdomen through to your back. The pain may happen with or without vomiting. These may be symptoms of pancreatitis.

What is JANUVIA?

- JANUVIA is a prescription medicine used along with diet and exercise to lower blood sugar in adults with type 2 diabetes.
- JANUVIA is not for people with type 1 diabetes.
- JANUVIA is not for people with diabetic ketoacidosis (increased ketones in your blood or urine).
- If you have had pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas) in the past, it is not known if you have a higher chance of getting pancreatitis while you take JANUVIA.
- It is not known if JANUVIA is safe and effective when used in children under 18 years of age.

Who should not take JANUVIA?

Do not take JANUVIA if:

- you are allergic to any of the ingredients in JANUVIA. See the end of this Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in JANUVIA.

  Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction to JANUVIA may include:
  - rash
  - raised red patches on your skin (hives)
  - swelling of the face, lips, tongue, and throat that may cause difficulty in breathing or swallowing

What should I tell my doctor before taking JANUVIA?

Before you take JANUVIA, tell your doctor if you:

- have or have had inflammation of your pancreas (pancreatitis).
- have kidney problems.
- have any other medical conditions.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if JANUVIA will harm your unborn baby. If you are pregnant, talk with your doctor about the best way to control your blood sugar while you are pregnant.

  Pregnancy Registry: If you take JANUVIA at any time during your pregnancy, talk with your doctor about how you can join the JANUVIA pregnancy registry. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. You can enroll in this registry by calling 1-800-986-8999.
- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. It is not known if JANUVIA will pass into your breast milk. Talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby if you are taking JANUVIA.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take JANUVIA?

- Take JANUVIA 1 time each day exactly as your doctor tells you.
- You can take JANUVIA with or without food.
- Your doctor may do blood tests from time to time to see how well your kidneys are working. Your doctor may change your dose of JANUVIA based on the results of your blood tests.
- Your doctor may tell you to take JANUVIA along with other diabetes medicines. Low blood sugar can happen more often when JANUVIA is taken with certain other diabetes medicines. See **"What are the possible side effects of JANUVIA?"**.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If you do not remember until it is time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular schedule. Do not take two doses of JANUVIA at the same time.
- If you take too much JANUVIA, call your doctor or local Poison Control Center right away.
- When your body is under some types of stress, such as fever, trauma (such as a car accident), infection or surgery, the amount of diabetes medicine that you need may change. Tell your doctor right away if you have any of these conditions and follow your doctor's instructions.
- Check your blood sugar as your doctor tells you to.
- Stay on your prescribed diet and exercise program while taking JANUVIA.
- Talk to your doctor about how to prevent, recognize and manage low blood sugar (hypoglycemia), high blood sugar (hyperglycemia), and problems you have because of your diabetes.
- Your doctor will check your diabetes with regular blood tests, including your blood sugar levels and your hemoglobin A1C.

What are the possible side effects of JANUVIA?

Serious side effects have happened in people taking JANUVIA.

- See **"What is the most important information I should know about JANUVIA?"**.
- **Low blood sugar (hypoglycemia).** If you take JANUVIA with another medicine that can cause low blood sugar, such as a sulfonylurea or insulin, your risk of getting low blood sugar is higher. The dose of your sulfonylurea medicine or insulin may need to be lowered while you use JANUVIA. Signs and symptoms of low blood sugar may include:
  - headache
  - drowsiness
  - weakness
  - dizziness
  - confusion
  - irritability
  - hunger
  - fast heart beat
  - sweating
  - feeling jittery
- **Serious allergic reactions.** If you have any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, stop taking JANUVIA and call your doctor right away. See **"Who should not take JANUVIA?"**. Your doctor may give you a medicine for your allergic reaction and prescribe a different medicine for your diabetes.
- **Kidney problems,** sometimes requiring dialysis

The most common side effects of JANUVIA include:

- upper respiratory infection
- stuffy or runny nose and sore throat
- headache

JANUVIA may have other side effects, including:

- stomach upset and diarrhea
- swelling of the hands or legs, when JANUVIA is used with rosiglitazone (Avandia®). Rosiglitazone is another type of diabetes medicine.

These are not all the possible side effects of JANUVIA. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you, is unusual or does not go away.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

How should I store JANUVIA?

Store JANUVIA at 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).

Keep JANUVIA and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General information about the use of JANUVIA

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes that are not listed in Medication Guides. Do not use JANUVIA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give JANUVIA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about JANUVIA. If you would like to know more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for additional information about JANUVIA that is written for health professionals. For more information, go to www.JANUVIA.com or call 1-800-622-4477.

What are the ingredients in JANUVIA?

Active ingredient: sitagliptin.

Inactive ingredients: microcrystalline cellulose, anhydrous dibasic calcium phosphate, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, and sodium stearyl fumarate. The tablet film coating contains the following inactive ingredients: polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol, talc, titanium dioxide, red iron oxide, and yellow iron oxide.

What is type 2 diabetes?

Type 2 diabetes is a condition in which your body does not make enough insulin, and the insulin that your body produces does not work as well as it should. Your body can also make too much sugar. When this happens, sugar (glucose) builds up in the blood. This can lead to serious medical problems.

High blood sugar can be lowered by diet and exercise, and by certain medicines when necessary.

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Manuf. for: Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a subsidiary of
MERCK & CO., INC., Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889, USA

Manufactured by:
Merck Sharp & Dohme (Italia) S.p.A.
Via Emilia, 21
27100 – Pavia, Italy
9984404

US Patent No.: 6,699,871
This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. DIAB-1018050-0000 12/11

Terms and Conditions

- This voucher is valid for 1 free 30-day trial supply of JANUVIA.
- Limit 1 voucher per patient for the duration of the program.
- Valid for 1-time use only. Free trial offer is valid only for up to 30 tablets of JANUVIA. No purchase is necessary. Refills are not required.
- This voucher is not transferable. No substitutions are permitted. Cannot be combined with any other free trial, coupon, discount, prescription savings card, or other offer.
- **This voucher is not insurance.**
- You must be 18 years or older to redeem this voucher. Patient, pharmacist, and prescriber agree not to seek reimbursement for all or any part of the benefit received by the patient through this offer. The free trial supply of JANUVIA cannot be used toward any out-of-pocket costs under any plan (such as true out-of-pocket expense [TrOOP]).
- This voucher can be used only by eligible US residents at any participating eligible retail pharmacy in the United States. Product must originate in the United States.
- This voucher is the property of Merck and must be turned in on request.
- Merck reserves the right to rescind, revoke, or amend this offer at any time without notice.
- **It is illegal to sell, purchase, trade, or counterfeit this voucher. Void if reproduced. Void where prohibited by law, taxed, or restricted.**
- **Please read the accompanying Medication Guide and discuss it with your doctor. Also available is the physician Prescribing Information.**
- **Expiration Date: 06/30/2012**

Januvia®
(sitagliptin) tablets

THE END OF NEARLY NINE YEARS IN IRAQ

- Flag lowered in Baghdad, signifying end of US occupation
- Almost 4,500 Americans, tens of thousands of Iraqis killed since 2003
- Timeline of events, from invasion Saddam's capture to withdrawal

U.S. forces formally ended almost nine years of war in Iraq on Thursday with a modest flag-lowering ceremony in Baghdad, while to the north flickering violence highlighted ethnic and sectarian strains threatening the country in years ahead.

"After a lot of blood spilled by Iraqis and Americans, the mission of an Iraq that could govern and secure itself has become real," Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said at the ceremony at Baghdad's still heavily-fortified airport.

Almost 4,500 U.S. soldiers and tens of thousands of Iraqis lost their lives in the war that began with a "Shock and Awe" campaign of missiles pounding Baghdad and descended into sectarian strife and a surge in U.S. troop numbers.

U.S. soldiers lowered the flag of American forces in Iraq and slipped it into a camouflage-colored sleeve in a brief outdoor ceremony, symbolically ending the most unpopular U.S. military venture since the Vietnam War of the 1960s and '70s.

The remaining 4,000 American troops will leave by the end of the year.

Toppled Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein is dead, executed in 2006, and the worst sectarian violence has, at least for now, passed. REUTERS

MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ The United States Forces-Iraq flag is displayed before being retired during a casing ceremony signifying the departure of United States troops from Iraq at the former Sather Air Base on Thursday in Baghdad, Iraq. United States forces are scheduled to entirely depart Iraq by Dec. 31.

Timeline

- **March 20, 2003:** U.S.-led forces invade Iraq from Kuwait to oust Saddam Hussein.
- **April 9:** U.S. troops take Baghdad; Saddam goes into hiding.
- **May 1:** President George W. Bush declares hostilities over.
- **Dec. 13:** U.S. troops capture Saddam near Tikrit.
- **June 15:** U.S. military completes its troop build-up, or

"surge," to around 170,000 soldiers.

- From **April to June 2007,** 331 U.S. soldiers are killed, the deadliest quarter of the war for the U.S. military.
- **Sept. 10:** U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, recommends cutting troops by more than 20,000 by mid-2008.
- **July 22, 2008:** The U.S. military says the last of five extra combat brigades sent to Iraq in 2007 have withdrawn, leaving just under 147,000 U.S. troops in Iraq.
- **Nov. 17, 2008:** Iraq and the United States sign an accord requiring Washington to withdraw its forces by the end of 2011. The pact gives the government authority over the U.S. mission for the first time.
- **Feb. 27, 2009:** New U.S. President Barack Obama announces plan to end U.S. combat operations in Iraq by Aug. 31, 2010, but says he will leave up to 50,000 troops to train Iraqi forces.
- **June 30:** All U.S. combat units withdraw from Iraq's urban centers and redeploy to bases outside.
- **Aug. 31:** Troop levels in Iraq are reduced to 49,700 after

a major drawdown is completed.

- **April 26, 2011:** U.S. Congressional Budget Office says the cost of Iraq operations totals around $752 billion since 2003.
- **June 6:** In the biggest single loss of life since 2009, six U.S. soldiers are killed in a rocket attack on a Baghdad base.
- **Oct. 21:** Obama says he will pull all U.S. troops out of Iraq at the end of 2011.
- **Dec. 12:** NATO says it will end its seven-year troop training mission in Iraq at the end of December, to coincide with the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

REUTERS

Thirsty? This party just getting started

With Occupy Wall Street getting all the media attention lately, some may have forgotten the Obama-era's first popular uprising But they remember

MELANIE STETSON FREEMAN/THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR VIA GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Naples Tea Party gathered in a local park this past Thanksgiving. Rallies of this sort — with members dressed mainly in red, white and blue, and many carrying U.S. flags — helped propel the political movement into the national spotlight. But supporters have taken a step back from high-profile gatherings and have begun focusing on electoral priorities — like unity.

Tea Party supporters now hold fewer sign-waving rallies, a hallmark of their early opposition to bank bailouts and President Obama's health care reform in 2009. But the movement isn't losing steam.

Interviews with activists across 20 U.S. states indicate that Tea Party groups, far from fading, have evolved into an increasingly sophisticated network working to unseat establishment Republicans who they believe have betrayed the principles of lower taxes, limited government and free markets.

"Those who think the Tea Party is on the wane are in for a gigantic surprise in 2012," says Debbie Dooley, co-organizer of the Atlanta Tea Party. "We have built a grassroots army and we will be a fine-tuned machine next year."

The goal of these loosely affiliated but fiercely independent groups nationwide is to build a "farm team" of public officials who can ascend through the ranks of government. It's a long-term strategy that looks past the 2012 election to a takeover of the Republican Party and the U.S. Congress.

Instead of organizing demonstrations, an unpaid army of managers, small business owners and stay-at-home moms is learning how to get out the vote, raise money and set up political action committees. They are working to overcome the territorial rivalries that dogged the Tea Party in 2010, when groups backed multiple primary challengers and often allowed the establishment candidate to win.

One thing the activists have learned is that they must unify behind one candidate rather than let a number of conservative contenders split the vote. A Tea Party coalition has already done this in Indiana, where they hope to unseat a six-term incumbent. REUTERS

43%
According to a Reuters/Ipso poll this week, 43 percent of Republicans identify (23 percent) or identify strongly (20 percent) with the Tea Party.

23% **Among all Americans, those figures show 13 percent identify, 10 percent do strongly.**

First Senate, then the world?

WASHINGTON. Twenty-three of 33 seats in the Democratic-controlled U.S. Senate are up for grabs next year. Republicans need to win only four of those seats to gain the majority, which has made Senate races a focus of Republican Party activists.

"If they can unify behind viable candidates, more money will flow to those candidates," said Republican strategist Ford O'Connell. "The big question is, can they get there?"

And if they can, the next big question is what happens to the GOP. If Republicans hold the House, win the Senate, and take the White House, that will set the stage for a Tea-Party driven "bloodletting," predicts Stuart Rothenberg, editor of the Rothenberg Political Report newsletter. REUTERS

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN

CAN'T STOP THE TALK

Most of what happens in Washington is fraught with uncertainty. Ideas are raised, campaigns launched and hookers called with only the vaguest sense of what will come next. Sometimes it ends well, ("Huzzah, we won!)" sometimes not ("Say, Amber, why do you have a badge in your purse?").

But every once in a while a notion comes down the pike that is clearly as doomed as a Kim Kardashian marriage. And that, my friends, is precisely what you can say about this proposal to ban all cell phone use in cars.

I know that TV newscasts, radio shows and Internet sites were filled to the brim with endless chatter about the National Transportation Safety Board's bold suggestion this week. Some people praised the merits of public safety, others decried the infringement on personal freedom, but trust me: It was all just talk. Like a Giants Super Bowl appearance, such a ban is not going to happen.

CNN=POLITICS

Quoted

"Surveys show that most people think they can drive perfectly fine while operating the phone."
FOREMAN

First, the business community would go nuclear. It has taken decades for technology to allow employers to firmly fasten electronic collars around the necks of employees and they are not about to give that up for something as unprofitable as safety.

Next, there are too many variables involved in accidents. Sure, respected researchers have repeatedly demonstrated that phones distract drivers. But opponents of any such law will certainly argue that many things fit that bill, including dachshunds, children, ice cream cones, radios, power windows, air conditioning, GPS units and little cardboard pine trees hanging on the rear view mirror. "My word, Senator, would you want to ban them all?"

And third, it seems a safe bet to say that people don't want such a law. Surveys show that most people think they can drive perfectly fine while operating the phone; it is all the other idiots who can't be trusted.

A texting ban in the Buick? No tweeting in your Tesla? Maybe those laws can fly. But this past summer, the number of wireless phones in America exceeded the number of Americans. That is a society that loves being connected and talking: at work, at play and on the way — no matter the risk.

*– CNN's **Tom Foreman** is a regular on "AC360°"/www.ac360.com and "The Situation Room."*

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WEEKEND

2

Do you hear what we hear?

This year's holiday releases are a mixed bag Michael Buble flirts with Santa, a Stone Temple Pilot gets into reggae and jazz and the Biebs is all over the place Metro helps you sort the naughty from the nice

Michael Buble "Christmas"

Naughty: The biggest problem with this album is that once you hear it, you'll have to admit that you like Michael Buble. But if the people you're telling have heard "Christmas," then they'll go easy on you.

Nice: Buble is silly, classy, and so right on-key. Plus, he re-imagines almost every song on this album. Sure, it's a little weird to hear "Santa Baby" as a vaguely homoerotic May/December come-on, but his torch song treatment of Mariah Carey's "All I Want For Christmas Is You" unearths a real longing that's missing in Mimi's version.

She & Him "A Very She & Him Christmas"

Naughty: M. Ward's guitar playing is as beautiful as ever and Zooey Deschanel's voice is like the moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow, but it would be nice if there was at least one original track to spice up this 12-song collection. If you're not listening closely to them playing these standards, you might think you're listening to one really long song.

Nice: She & Him switch the she and him roles on "Baby It's Cold Outside," so Zooey Deschanel is the one persuading M. Ward to stay just a little bit longer. This long overdue update makes the 1936 song about 50 percent less date-rapey.

Justin Bieber "Under the Mistletoe"

Naughty: This is one uneven collection, mostly because the songs span a period of the Biebs' career where he's outgrowing his cute Christmas elf phase. It's all over the place, sometimes within a single song! A smooth R&B duet with Boyz II Men on "The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)" includes a searing guitar solo; he does a Jackson 5 take on "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" that is super-autotuned; and Busta Rhymes comes from nowhere to rap in "Drummer Boy." Sample lyric: "Gatha round the mistletoe real quick, as a matta of fact, gatha 'round the fireplace, it's about to get hot in here."

Nice: The title track could be a new classic, with its easy Jason Mraz groove and Bieber's pouty loverman delivery.

"Glee: The Music, The Christmas Album Vol. 2"

Naughty: This album is full of covers, sung with a self-seriousness that brings out the Grinch in us. In "Do They Know It's Christmas," when the cast sings the "thank God it's them instead of you" line, we couldn't help but say that exact same thing — then we went and sought out the original version. They keep trying, but no "Glee" cover has surpassed an original.

Nice: "Extraordinary Merry Christmas" is like a snow man sugar cookie. It's sweet and you want more of it. But it would taste a lot better if Kelly Clarkson were serving it to us.

Lady Gaga "A Very Gaga Holiday"

Naughty: This four-song EP, culled from her "A Very Gaga Thanksgiving" TV special, is only 25 percent seasonal.

Nice: Only Mother Monster would have the audacity to add another verse to "White Christmas." It's a stupid verse about her "dreaming of a white snow man," but it's kind of funny and her voice is right on.

My Morning Jacket "iTunes Session"

Naughty: Yeah, we know that My Morning Jacket recorded this seven-song collection as part of an "iTunes Session," but couldn't they have given it a cooler title?

Nice: The band's classic reverb approach suits the snowy majestic ideal of Christmas perfectly. This collection seems like it was recorded specifically for just sitting in front of the Christmas tree and marvelling. The band bring new life to The Band's "Christmas Must Be Tonight."

PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

The more the merrier

Eldridge Rodriguez "Christmas on the Allston-Brighton Line"

Naughty: The major downfall of this three-song EP is that it's only a three-song EP.

Nice: The way that E.R. integrates pre-existing holiday lines into his originals is effortless. "I've got my records on, but all I play is 'Silent Night,'" he sings on "Baby I'm Alone Tonight (Christmas Time)." And though his narrator is certainly having a blue Christmas, there's a playfulness to the presentation, evident from the title of the song "Christmas Eve (At Old Country Buffet)."

Scott Weiland "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year"

Naughty: The first half of this album finds the Stone Temple Pilots singer sounding like a drunk who would be featured on the gag-reel of the "American Idol" auditions episodes.

Nice: As the album goes along, Weiland sobers up, finds his footing and dresses up standards like "What Child Is This" and "O Holy Night" in jazzy and island rhythms, respectively.

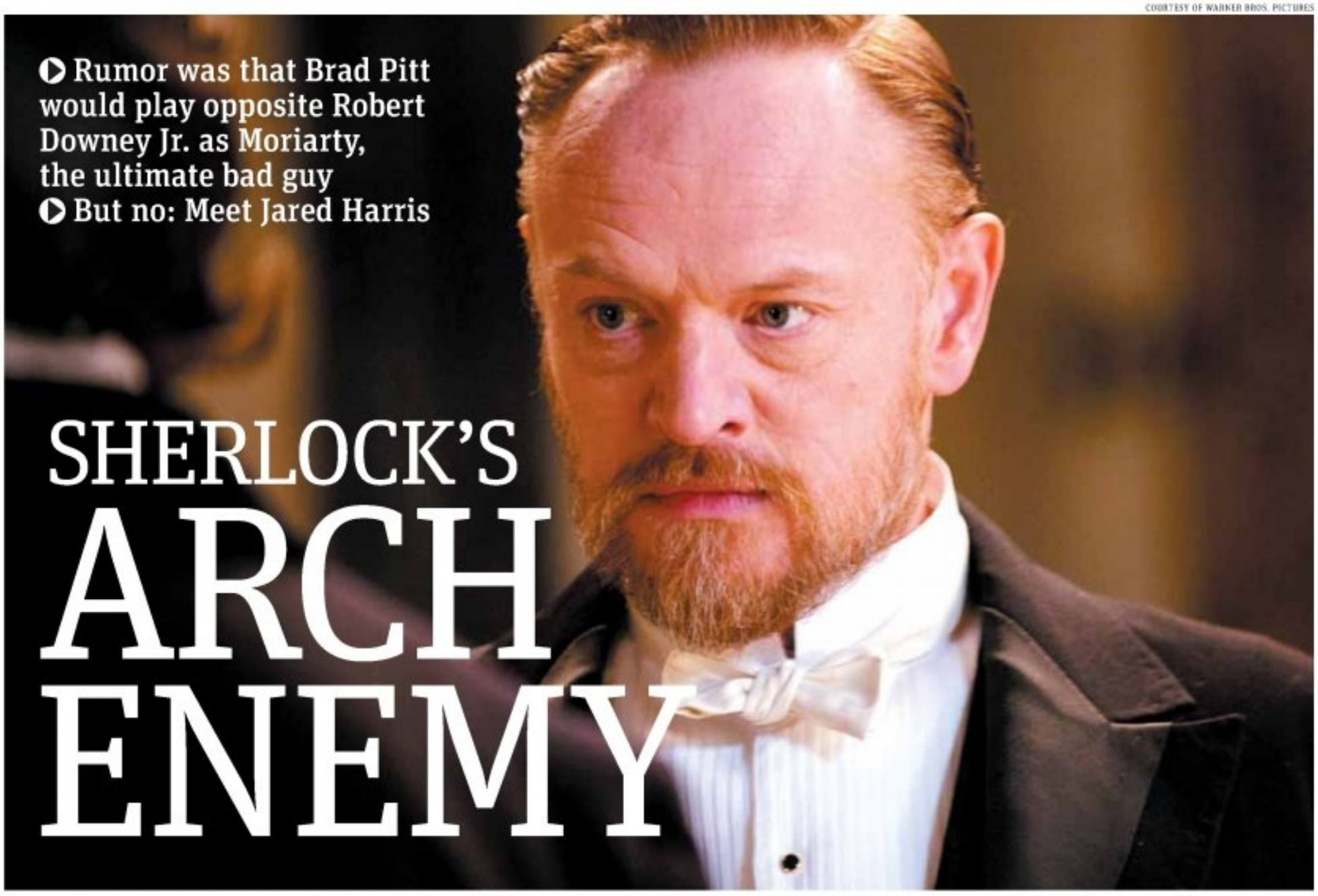
Don't forget:

Mariah Carey & John Legend, "When Christmas Comes"

Naughty: This song from Mariah's 2010 album, "Merry Christmas II You," was rolled out as a single last month. With its department store horns and not-so-smooth R&B groove, the tune sounds like it was recorded for a made-for-basic-cable-television movie. There are little sleigh bells in the recording and the lyrics are cringe-worthy, with lines like "I can't wait to unwrap your love" mixed with a light "Jesus is the reason for the season" reference.

Nice: The album artwork is actually pretty cool, made to look like a well-worn record cover in the tradition of the Carpenters.

COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES



- Rumor was that Brad Pitt would play opposite Robert Downey Jr. as Moriarty, the ultimate bad guy
- But no: Meet Jared Harris

SHERLOCK'S ARCH ENEMY

You can't have a Sherlock Holmes without a Moriarty, and while the character was hinted at — shown as just a hand emerging from darkness — in 2009's "Sherlock Holmes," the master villain comes center stage in the new "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," embodied with quiet cunning by British actor and "Mad Men" star Jared Harris. While Harris admits he was a big fan of the first movie, he hadn't considered that shadowy hand would eventually belong to him.

How was it to take on this monumental literary figure, one of the biggest villains of all time?

It was a great opportunity, so the ambitious part of you recognizes that. The other side of you goes, "Yes! But how the f— are you going to do it?" That's the bit that's scary.

Did you look to any previous incarnations of Moriarty while preparing?

I looked at the books — I'd read them before, but not with that focus — and I didn't find that particularly helpful in terms of the Moriarty who appears in those two stories. Given that they sort of threw a hand grenade into the traditional Sherlock Holmes ... the Moriarty had to be in keeping with that. But at the same time you're aware that after what Mike Myers did with super-villains playing Doctor Evil, in a post-Austin Powers era, that there's that pitfall on one side, and then there's the pitfall on the other side of there's no point in just repeating what other people have done in playing the part, because that's boring.

After the first film, there was a lot of speculation as to who would play the part. Did you picture yourself in the role?

Never, never. No. I mean, I'd heard there was all these names that were printed in the press. I have no idea if they were true or not. I know they were looking for a star, but I don't know who they were or who they tried. But I did not think for a second watching that movie that I would be in the next one. It never occurred to me that it would be a possibility. I mean, I remember when the first one was casting in London, I gave my agent an earful for not getting me up for the first one.

You've done some fight choreography with Robert Downey Jr. in this. Are you going to apply any of that to "Mad Men" next season?

Ah. [Laughs] That's not up for me to decide, that's up to Matt Weiner. The actors have no input into the writing or what happens to the story or the characters at all. That's all Matt Weiner. I can't tell you anything about the stories for the new season. I can talk with you all night long about episodes from seasons one through four as much as you like, but I can't tell you about season five. We're all looking forward to it.

And you're playing Ulysses S. Grant in Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln."

They're halfway through. They finish around Christmastime. What can you say? It's an opportunity to work with Steven Spielberg and Daniel Day Lewis on a Tony Kushner script. I mean, it's just awesome all around, really. I can't think of an actor in the world who doesn't want to work with Spielberg.

NED EHRBAR
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

Noomi comes to Hollywood

▶ Noomi Rapace

After gaining international acclaim for portraying Lisbeth Salander in the Swedish film version of the "Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" series, Swedish actress Noomi Rapace is landing in Hollywood with her first English-language film, "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows." Not too shabby for an actress who says she didn't speak English three years ago.

Rapace says the transition has been easy, thanks in part to working with Guy Ritchie. "I don't remember a single situation when I came on set and Guy said, 'This is what I want you to do exactly,'" she explains. "He always asked me, 'How do you want to do this?' And that's the way I love to work."

Review

Cool and the gang

'Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows'
Director: Guy Ritchie
Cast: Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, Jared Harris
Rating: PG-13
Grade: ●●●●◐

"Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," the sequel to the 2009 blockbuster, is that rare phenomenon: A huge Hollywood production that doesn't play to the lowest common denominator. Instead, "Shadows" shines with a sharp script, witty dialogue, rat-a-tat direction from Guy Ritchie and fun performances from the ever-charming Robert Downey Jr., who reprises his role as the world's most famous detective, and Jude Law as his dutiful Dr. Watson.

The triple threat of Downey, Richie, and Law is not to be underestimated. They are just so good together that moments of nonsensical plot screw-ups and lulls are quickly swept under the rug by their cinematic, professional sleight-of-hands; they are magicians of the highest order.

Holding his own against the three (under Richie's direction, Law and Downey seem to be having so much fun, it's as though the co-stars are barging in on their party) is Jared Harris as Professor James Moriarty. He's so devious, so smarmy, so brown-in-the tooth, you can practically smell the nicotine coming off him.

So, if you're searching for a holiday blockbuster that won't kill your brain cells while entertaining the whole family, the answer, dear reader, is elementary.

DOROTHY ROBINSON

COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

▶ It's no s—, this "Sherlock."

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ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 10:05, 3:10, 8:20. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) 12:40, 5:40, 10:45. RealD 3D
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) Fri and Sat 9:50, 12:30, 3:05, 5:40. Digital Presentation; Sun 9:50-12:30-3:05-5:35. Digital Presentation
HUGO (PG) 10:10, 1:05, 4:10. Digital Presentation
IMMORTALS (R) Fri and Sat 8:10, 10:50. Digital Presentation; Sun 8:00-10:30. Digital Presentation
JACK AND JILL (PG) 10:40, 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 7:55, 10:20
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 9:45, 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 10:45. IMAX
THE MUPPETS (PG) 10:15, 1:00, 3:40; 9:35-12:10-2:45-5:30-8:05-10:40. Digital Presentation
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:20, 12:00, 1:30, 3:00, 4:40, 6:20, 7:50, 9:20, 11:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:20-12:00-1:30-3:00-4:40-6:20-7:50-9:20. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:25, 9:50
TOWER HEIST (PG-13) 7:05, 9:35
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) Fri and Sat 9:30, 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 6:30, 8:15, 9:15, 11:00; Sun 9:30-12:10-2:50-5:30-6:30-8:15-9:15.

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ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 10:05, 12:30, 3:05
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) Fri and Sat 11:05, 1:50, 4:40, 7:10, 9:45, 12:20. RealD 3D; Sun 11:05-1:50-4:40-7:10-9:45. RealD 3D
THE DESCENDANTS (R) Fri and Sat 11:00, 2:10, 5:10, 7:55, 10:35.C INDEPENDENT; Sun 11:00-2:10-5:10-7:55-10:30.C INDEPENDENT
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) Fri and Sat 11:45, 5:05, 10:25. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:45-5:05-10:15. Digital Presentation
HAPPY FEET TWO IN 3D (PG) 2:25, 7:45. RealD 3D
HUGO 3D (PG) Fri and Sat 10:20, 1:20, 4:10, 7:25, 10:30. RealD 3D; Sun 10:20-1:20-4:10-7:25-10:25. RealD 3D
IMMORTALS (R) 11:25, 4:45, 10:15. Digital Presentation
IMMORTALS 3D (R) 2:05, 7:30. RealD 3D
J. EDGAR (R) Fri 12:10. CC-Closed Captions; 12:10.
JACK AND JILL (PG) Fri and Sat 10:15, 3:25, 8:25; Sun 10:15-3:25-8:15.
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NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:25, 1:25, 4:15, 7:05, 9:50, 12:35. Digital Presentation; Fri and Sat 11:30-2:30-5:25-8:20-11:25.; Sun 10:25-1:25-4:15-7:05-9:50. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:30-2:30-5:25-8:20.
PUSS IN BOOTS (PG) 10:55, 3:35, 8:15. Digital Presentation
PUSS IN BOOTS 3D (PG) Fri and Sat 1:15, 5:50, 10:45. RealD 3D; Sun 1:15-5:50-10:25. RealD 3D
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri 10:50, 2:00, 4:55, 8:10, 11:20. Digital Presentation; Fri 3:15-6:30-9:40-12:25. CC-Closed Captions; Fri 10:05-1:10-3:15-4:00-6:30-7:15-9:40-10:10-12:25.; Sat 10:05-1:10-7:15-10:10.; Sat 10:05-1:10. CC-Closed Captions; Sat 10:50-2:00-3:15-4:55-6:30-8:10-9:40-11:20-12:25. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:05-1:10-4:00. CC-Closed Captions; Sun 10:50-2:00-3:15-4:55-6:30-8:10-9:40. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:05-1:10-4:00-7:15-10:10.
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THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 10:45, 1:35, 4:25, 7:20, 10:05. Digital Presentation; Fri and Sat 5:50-8:40-11:30.; Sun 5:50-8:40.
A VERY HAROLD & KUMAR 3D CHRISTMAS (R) Fri and Sat 11:15, 1:40, 4:00, 6:10, 8:30, 10:40. RealD 3D; Sun 11:15-1:40-4:00-6:10-8:25-10:35. RealD 3D
YOUNG ADULT (R) Fri and Sat 10:10, 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55, 12:15; Sun 10:10-12:25-2:50-5:15-7:35-9:55.

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HUGO 3D (PG) 12:55, 6:55. RealD 3D
IMMORTALS (R) Fri and Sat 7:20, 10:20. Digital Presentation; Sun 7:20-9:55. Digital Presentation
J. EDGAR (R) Fri and Sat 10:25; Sun 10:10.
JACK AND JILL (PG) 10:15, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 7:55
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 9:45, 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 10:45. IMAX
THE MUPPETS (PG) Fri and Sat 10:35, 1:20, 4:10, 6:50, 9:45, 12:20; Fri and Sat 9:35-12:20-3:05-5:50-8:35-11:20. Digital Presentation; Sun 9:35-12:20-3:05-5:50-8:35. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:35-1:20-4:10-6:50-9:45.
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) Fri and Sat 10:40, 1:25, 4:05, 6:45, 9:25, 11:50.C INDEPENDENT; Sun 10:40-1:25-4:05-6:45-9:25.C INDEPENDENT
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 9:35, 12:35, 3:30, 6:25, 9:20, 12:25. Digital Presentation; Fri and Sat 11:05-1:55-5:05-8:00-11:00.; Sun 9:35-12:35-3:30-6:25-9:20. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:05-1:55-5:05-7:55-10:35.
PUSS IN BOOTS (PG) 9:40, 12:00, 2:30, 4:55. Digital Presentation
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:30, 1:45, 5:00, 8:15, 11:30; Fri and Sat 9:30-11:30-12:45-2:45-4:00-6:00-7:15-9:15-10:30-12:30. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:30-1:45-5:00-8:15.; Sun 9:30-11:30-12:45-2:45-4:00-6:00-7:15-9:15-10:25. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) Fri and Sat 11:40, 2:10, 4:20, 6:35, 8:50, 11:10. Digital Presentation; Fri and Sat 10:50-1:05-3:15-5:25-7:40-9:55-12:10.; Sun 10:50-1:05-3:15-5:25-7:40-9:45.; Sun 11:40-2:10-4:20-6:35-8:50. Digital Presentation
TOWER HEIST (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:35, 2:25, 5:20, 8:10, 10:40. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:35-2:25-5:20-7:50-10:30. Digital Presentation
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:00, 1:40, 4:35, 7:25, 10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video; Sun 11:00-1:40-4:35-7:25-10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video
A VERY HAROLD & KUMAR 3D CHRISTMAS (R) Fri and Sat 10:20, 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:35, 9:50, 12:15. RealD 3D; Sun 10:20-12:40-2:55-5:10-7:35-10:00. RealD 3D
YOUNG ADULT (R) Fri and Sat 9:25, 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:40, 10:10, 12:40; Sun 9:25-12:05-2:35-5:05-7:40-10:05.

AMC Plymouth Meeting Mall 12
888–AMC–4FUN
Next to Plymouth Meeting Mall

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) Fri 12:00, 2:15, 4:45, 7:00, 9:35. Digital Presentation; Fri and Sat 11:00-1:15-3:45-6:10-8:25-10:40.; Sat and Sun 10:00-12:00-2:15-4:45-7:00-9:35. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:00-1:15-3:45-6:10-8:25.
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) Fri 11:15, 4:00, 9:00. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 11:05-4:00-9:00. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) Fri 1:35, 6:30. RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 1:30-6:30. RealD 3D
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 11:20, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50.C INDEPENDENT
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) Fri 8:20. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:45-8:20. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:05-7:35. Digital Presentation
HAPPY FEET TWO IN 3D (PG) Fri and Sat 1:10, 6:00. RealD 3D; Sun 12:35-5:10. RealD 3D
THE IDES OF MARCH (R) Fri 3:00, 8:00; Sat 10:30-3:00-8:00.; Sun 10:30-3:00-7:55.
JACK AND JILL (PG) Fri and Sat 12:50, 5:30, 10:30; Sun 12:50-5:30-10:15.
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) Fri and Sat 12:15, 2:55, 5:25, 7:50, 10:20.C INDEPENDENT; Sun 12:15-2:55-5:25-7:50-10:05.C INDEPENDENT
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) Fri 11:10, 12:25, 1:45, 3:20, 4:20, 5:50, 7:05, 8:30, 9:45. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:05-11:10-12:50-1:45-3:20-4:20-5:50-7:05-8:30-9:45. Digital Presentation
PUSS IN BOOTS (PG) Fri 2:45, 3:40, 7:25, 10:45. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:15-2:45-3:40-7:25-10:45. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:15-2:45-2:50-7:25-9:55. Digital Presentation
PUSS IN BOOTS 3D (PG) 12:30, 5:00, 9:30. RealD 3D
TOWER HEIST (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 5:05, 7:30, 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video
YOUNG ADULT (R) Fri 1:05, 3:25, 5:45, 8:15, 10:35; Sat 10:40-1:05-3:25-5:45-8:15-10:35.; Sun 10:40-1:05-3:25-5:45-8:00-10:15.

AMC Woodhaven 10
888–AMC–4FUN
Route 13, near I-95 and Woodhaven Road exit

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) Fri 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45; Sat 10:10-12:30-3:00-5:15-7:30-9:45.; Sun 10:10-12:30-3:00-5:15-7:30.
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) Fri 2:40, 7:40. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 9:40-2:40-7:40. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) Fri 5:10, 10:10. RealD 3D; Sat 12:10-5:10-10:10. RealD 3D; Sun 12:10-5:10. RealD 3D
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) Fri 2:35, 7:30. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 9:45-2:35-7:30. Digital Presentation
HAPPY FEET TWO IN 3D (PG) Fri 5:05, 9:55. RealD 3D; Sat 12:10-5:05-9:55. RealD 3D; Sun 12:10-5:05. RealD 3D
HUGO (PG) 2:15, 8:05. Digital Presentation
HUGO 3D (PG) Fri 5:15, 10:50. RealD 3D; Sat 11:15-5:15-10:50. RealD 3D; Sun 11:15-5:15. RealD 3D
J. EDGAR (R) 2:35
JACK AND JILL (PG) Fri 5:35, 7:50, 10:05; Sat 10:05-12:20-5:35-7:50-10:05.; Sun 10:05-12:20-5:35-7:50.
THE MUPPETS (PG) Fri 3:10, 5:45, 8:20, 10:55; Sat 10:00-12:35-3:10-5:45-8:20-10:55.; Sun 10:00-12:35-3:10-5:45-8:20.
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) Fri 2:50, 5:35, 8:20, 11:00; Sat 9:20-12:05-2:50-5:35-8:20-11:00.; Sun 9:20-12:05-2:50-5:35-8:20.
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri 1:45, 4:45, 8:05, 11:05. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:50-1:45-4:45-8:05-11:05. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:50-1:45-4:45-8:05. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) Fri 2:25, 5:00, 8:00, 10:30; Sat 9:55-12:15-2:25-5:00-8:00-10:30.; Sun 9:55-12:15-2:25-5:00-8:00.
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) Fri 4:00, 7:00, 10:00; Sat 10:00-1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00.; Sun 10:00-1:00-4:00-7:00.

Bryn Mawr Film Institute
610–527–9898
824 West Lancaster Avenue

BOLSHOI BALLET: THE NUTCRACKER (NR) Sun 11:00
THE DESCENDANTS (R) Fri 4:00, 7:00, 9:30; Sat 1:30-4:00-7:00-9:30.; Sun 2:00-4:30-7:00.
MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET (1947) (NR) Sat 11:00
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) Fri 4:00, 7:00, 9:30; Sat 1:30-4:00-7:00-9:30.; Sun 1:30-4:00-7:00.
TALK CINEMA (NR) Sun 10:00

Clearview's Anthony Wayne
610–225–0980
109 West Lancaster Avenue

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) Fri 4:10, 7:10, 9:30; Sat 1:10-4:10-7:10-9:30.; Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10.
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) Fri 3:50, 6:50, 9:20; Sat 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:20.; Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50.
THE MUPPETS (PG) Fri 4:20, 7:20, 9:40; Sat 1:20-4:20-7:20-9:40.; Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20.
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) Fri 4:15, 7:15, 9:45. Digital Projection; Sat 1:15-4:15-7:15-9:45. Digital Projection; Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15. Digital Projection
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri 4:00, 7:00, 9:50; Sat 1:00-4:00-7:00-9:50.; Sun 1:00-4:00-7:00.

Clearview's Bala Theatre
610–668–4695
157 Bala Avenue

THE DESCENDANTS (R) Fri 4:00, 7:00, 9:35; Sat 1:00-4:00-7:00-9:35.; Sun 1:00-4:00-7:00.
HUGO 3D (PG) Fri 3:45, 6:45, 9:30; Sat 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:30.; Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45.
MARGIN CALL (R) Fri 4:15, 7:15, 9:40; Sat 1:15-4:15-7:15-9:40.; Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15.

Hiway Theatre
215–886–9800
212 Old York Road

THE DESCENDANTS (R) Fri 4:15, 7:00, 9:30; Sat 1:30-4:15-7:00-9:30.; Sun 1:30-4:15-7:00.

Narberth Stadium 2
610–667–0115
129 North Narberth Avenue

NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) Fri 4:10, 7:00, 9:45; Sat 1:00-4:10-7:00-9:45.; Sun 1:00-4:10-7:00.
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri 4:00, 6:50, 9:50; Sat 12:45-4:00-6:50-9:50.; Sun 12:45-4:00-6:50.

Regal Marketplace 24
800–326–3264 341
180 Mill Road

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 11:30, 12:10, 12:50, 1:20, 1:50, 2:30, 3:00, 3:35, 4:10, 4:50, 5:20, 6:00, 6:40, 7:20, 8:00, 9:00, 9:40, 10:20
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 11:50, 2:45, 6:15, 8:50
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) 1:25, 4:05. RealD 3D
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 2:00, 4:55, 7:45, 10:30
HAPPY FEET TWO IN 3D (PG) 1:05, 4:00, 6:50, 9:30. RealD 3D
HUGO (PG) 11:40
HUGO 3D (PG) 1:15, 4:25, 7:25, 10:25. RealD 3D
IMMORTALS 3D (R) 12:30, 3:40, 6:30, 9:25. RealD 3D
J. EDGAR (R) 8:55
JACK AND JILL (PG) 6:45, 9:10
LADIES VS. RICKY BAHL (NR) 12:25, 3:30, 6:35, 9:50
THE MUPPETS (PG) 12:05, 1:35, 3:25, 4:15, 6:10, 7:05, 9:05, 9:45
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 12:35, 1:10, 3:45, 4:40, 6:55, 7:35, 9:55, 10:45
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 12:40, 1:30, 2:10, 3:10, 3:50, 4:30, 5:10, 6:20, 7:00, 7:40, 8:20, 9:20, 10:00, 10:40
THE SITTER (R) 12:20, 1:00, 2:40, 3:20, 5:00, 5:40, 7:15, 8:05, 9:35, 10:35
TOWER HEIST (PG-13) 11:45, 2:20, 5:05, 7:50, 10:40
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 1:45, 4:35, 7:30, 10:15
YOUNG ADULT (R) 12:00, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10, 10:50

Regal Plymouth Meeting 10
800–326–3264 335
1011 W Ridge Pike

HUGO (PG) 1:00, 3:50
HUGO 3D (PG) 1:40, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20. RealD 3D
J. EDGAR (R) 2:10, 5:20, 8:30
THE MUPPETS (PG) 12:55, 1:30, 3:40, 4:20, 6:50, 7:20, 9:30, 10:05
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 12:50, 1:20, 4:00, 4:30, 6:40, 7:10, 7:40, 9:40, 10:10, 10:40
THE SITTER (R) Fri and Sat 2:00, 2:30, 5:00, 5:20, 7:50, 8:20, 10:00, 10:30; Sun 2:00-2:30-5:00-5:30-7:50-8:20-10:00-10:30.
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

Ritz 5 Movies
215–925–7900
214 Walnut Street

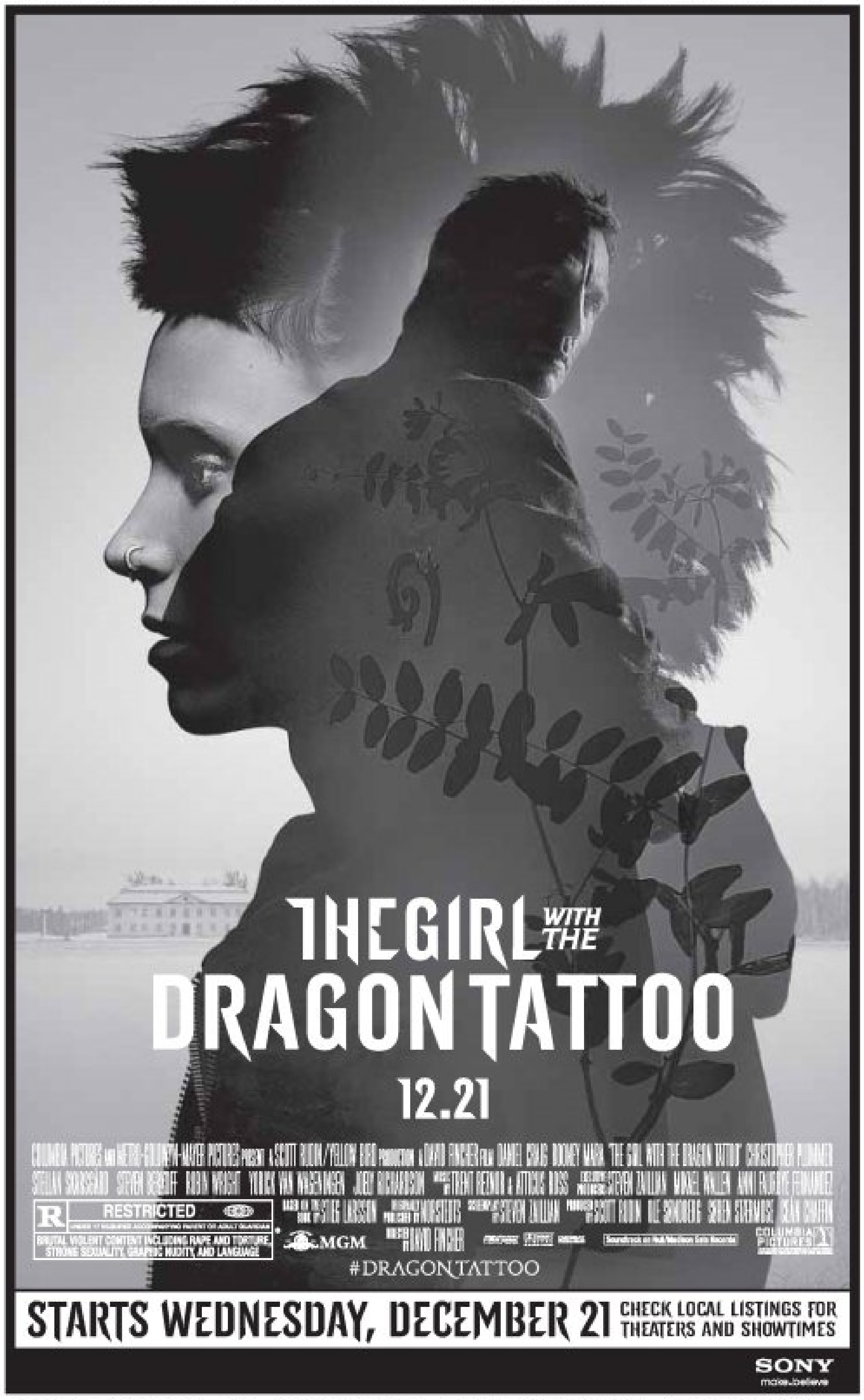
THE IDES OF MARCH (R) 2:40, 7:25
J. EDGAR (R) 3:15, 6:15, 9:15
LIKE CRAZY (PG-13) 1:00
MARTHA MARCY MAY MARLENE (R) Fri 12:15, 5:00, 9:50; Sat and Sun 12:15-5:00-9:50.
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) Fri 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:45; Sat and Sun 12:10-2:30-4:50-7:10-9:45.
SHAME (NC-17) Fri 12:20, 1:10, 2:50, 3:30, 5:15, 6:00, 7:40, 8:40, 10:00; Sat and Sun 12:20-1:10-2:50-3:30-5:15-6:00-7:40-8:40-10:00.

Ritz East
215–925–7900
2nd Street between Walnut and Chestnut

THE DESCENDANTS (R) Fri 12:30, 1:30, 3:15, 4:15, 6:00, 7:00, 8:45, 9:45; Sat and Sun 12:30-1:30-3:15-4:15-6:00-7:00-8:45-9:45.

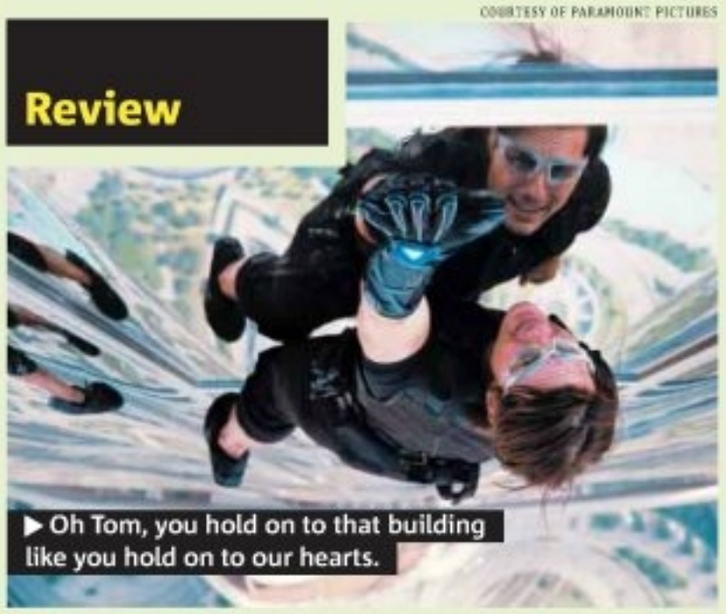
Ritz at the Bourse
215–925–7900
400 Ranstead Street

BEING ELMO: A PUPPETEER'S JOURNEY (PG) Fri 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:30; Sat and Sun 1:10-3:10-5:10-7:10-9:30.
MELANCHOLIA (R) Fri 1:00, 3:50, 6:45, 9:35; Sat and Sun 1:00-3:50-6:45-9:35.
THE SKIN I LIVE IN (LA PIEL QUE HABITO) (R) Fri 1:30, 4:15, 7:05, 9:40; Sat and Sun 1:30-4:15-7:05-9:40.
TOMBOY (NR) Fri 1:20, 4:00, 7:00, 9:20; Sat and Sun 1:20-4:00-7:00-9:20.
YOUNG GOETHE IN LOVE (NR) Fri 1:15, 3:45, 6:50, 9:30; Sat and Sun 1:15-3:45-6:50-9:30.



COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Review



▶ Oh Tom, you hold on to that building like you hold on to our hearts.

Entertaining? Very possible

'Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol'
Director: Brad Bird
Cast: Tom Cruise, Paula Patton, Simon Pegg
Rating: PG-13
Grade: ❶❷❸❹

In the fourth "Mission: Impossible" thriller, Tom Cruise and his team of spies must clear their name after it's framed for a terrorist plot against the Kremlin. It's a simple plot, but an impressive vehicle for huge action sequences that include Cruise hanging off the Burj Khalifa in Dubai — even more stunning in IMAX. While the villain is bland and the supporting characters a bit thin, "Ghost Protocol"'s intensity returns Cruise to form as one of cinema's more thrilling spies. SG

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COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX

▶ Jason Lee, as the frequently perturbed Dave Seville, readies himself for a fancy night on a cruise ship with his best chipmunk friend, Alvin.

'ALVIN!!!!!!'

Jason Lee wasn't half as irritated as his 'Alvin and the Chipmunks' character, Dave Seville, when it came to reprising that role alongside the singing woodland creatures

Jason Lee was more than happy to reprise his role as Dave Seville, the human minder and manager to a furry pop trio in "Alvin and Chipmunks: Chipwrecked." But the third film in the franchise provided some new challenges for the actor — namely filming on a Carnival cruise ship. "I mean, we were only there for a week, but my idea of a getaway is not being on a cruise ship with thousands of people, personally," Lee says. "You eat all day and all night, and you're out at sea. It's quite surreal, the cruise thing."

While Lee admits the process has gotten easier with the first two Chipmunks films under his belt, there's a challenge to working with virtual characters that never really goes away. "It's always a bit surreal when you're looking at pieces of tape and stuffed animals and tan beanbags," he says, adding that more dramatic scenes — like an emotional reunion with his furry kids — can be especially jarring. '"Theodore, I miss[ed] you!' And it's a beanbag in your hand. It's kind of strange."

Not only is it kind of strange, but being the lone human wrangling six unruly critters — Alvin, Simon and Theodore as well as their female counterparts, the Chipettes — can add some extra layers of concentration for an actor — especially when it comes to remembering where they're standing.

Lee says the biggest challenges are: "The running action, looking for the Chipmunks, grabbing them and that kind of stuff. ... It's the eye-line marks. When the volcano is erupting and you have to yell really loud and stuff is falling down, you're trying to remember which one is Jeanette. That stuff gets a little tricky, at times."

But despite the challenges of making a movie with animated chipmunks, Lee is thrilled to have some entries on his resume for his children to enjoy. "I always set out to just work as an actor and try to do as many different things as I possibly could — and not be too selective or not be too careful," he says. "I like that I've done kids' stuff, I like that I've done more dramatic stuff, I like that I did all the Kevin Smith stuff. I like that I've bounced around a lot. But certainly as a dad, it's nice to have movies that my kids can watch, because they certainly aren't watching 'Chasing Amy.'"

Heading back to TV

While former professional skateboarder Jason Lee got his start as an actor in films — mostly for Kevin Smith — it was his TV work that made him a star, especially on the four-year run of "My Name Is Earl." But while his most recent small-screen gig, the cable show "Memphis Beat," didn't last, he's eager to get back on TV. "I'm actually developing some things now," he says. "I've been meeting with writers and trying to get some things on the air, as a producer and as an actor. But, in the meantime, I've been having a lot of fun on [the sitcom] 'Up All Night.' That's been a good show to be working on. I've done four episodes of that so far, and I may be doing more."

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IN COLLABORATION WITH Alcatel·Lucent

Diablo Cody grows up

If you go

'Young Adult'
Director: Jason Reitman
Cast: Charlize Theron, Patrick Wilson, Patton Oswalt
Rating: R **Grade:** B

▶ Obviously, Mavis' (Theron) plan to get Buddy (Wilson) back is not working out quite like she expected.

COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Some of us peaked in high school. And some of us, despite several years distance from that period in our lives, have remained in a state of arrested development ever since. But there's never been someone quite as stuck in the past as Mavis Gary (Theron), a 37-year-old ghostwriter for a young adult series. In between whiskey-induced blackouts and Kardashian family reruns, Mavis obsesses over her high school boyfriend Buddy (Wilson), who has just become a father. Determined to win him back, she travels to her hometown — but seducing Buddy away from his happy family life isn't the slam dunk she thought it would be.

One of the hallmarks of a film script by Diablo Cody is its embrace of teen-speak. But as much as Mavis' sarcastic comebacks are similar to those Cody has written into other scripts, the screenwriter has achieved something heartbreakingly accurate in attaching that language to a deluded, alcoholic woman facing a nervous breakdown. That language is more of a sign of her stagnation than a cheap trick.

While engaging and at times hilarious, "Young Adult" is unafraid to go to that dark, scary place that makes the film incredibly unique, uncompromising and rewarding.

HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us

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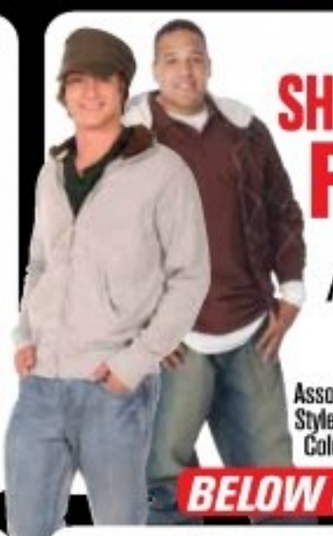

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▶ Don't place your bets on this one.

'Chipwrecked' is kryptonite for adults

Uninventive plot devices and chirpy little voices make this a dull, lifeless film for the poor parent who is bringing children to see this movie

"Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked"
Director: Mike Mitchell
Cast: Justin Long, David Cross, Amy Poehler
Rating: G **Grade:** ●●○○○

Maybe the first sign of getting old is no longer finding the voices of Alvin and his chipmunk brethren entertaining — or even intelligible. The plot for their third cartoon trope, the deserted island, where zany adventures are had. Kids movies generally succeed by having something in them for the parents, but the only jokes to sail over kids heads here theatrical outing gets underway after the rodents get separated from the Carnival cruise ship — ingenious product placement — and end up on that evergreen seem to make reference to Internet memes — the honey badger and Double Rainbow are particular touchstones. And while kids seem to enjoy the high-pitched voices, for grownups it's likely to be little more than headache-inducing.

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Los Angeles Times
Betsy Sharkey
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"CHARLIZE THERON IS A COMIC FORCE OF NATURE. BUT FAIR WARNING: THE LAUGHS IN 'YOUNG ADULT' LEAVE BRUISES."
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"ONE OF THE VERY BEST MOVIES OF 2011. I GIVE 'YOUNG ADULT' AN A."
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Surprises, snubs in Globes nods

Golden Globe nominations were announced Thursday, with 'The Artist' earning the most at six Breaking down the Hollywood Foreign Press list

Awards season officially kicks off with the nominations for the 2012 Golden Globes. And as usual, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association didn't disappoint by both focusing the Oscar race and throwing in a few head-scratchers. Here's the breakdown:

Biggest winners

Woody Allen should be smiling. Long a favorite of the HFPA, the director's latest film, **"Midnight in Paris,"** gets an impressive awards-season boost thanks to its four Globe nods, including both screenplay and directing for Allen. And between his acting in **"The Descendants"** and directing in **"The Ides of March,"** **George Clooney** will have plenty of reasons to show up. **Ryan Gosling** is certainly enjoying his nominations in both Best Actor categories. As far as sheer numbers, silent film **"The Artist"** — an Oscar front-runner since making a splash at Cannes — had the most nominations at six, but **"The Help"** and "The Descendants" are close behind at five. Usual awards heavyweights the Weinstein Company and HBO lead the film and TV packs with 12 and 18 nominations, respectively. British series **"Downton Abbey,"** which airs in the U.S. as part of Masterpiece Theater, received the most TV nominations, with four.

The Golden Globe Awards will be handed out live on Jan. 15 in Los Angeles.

Biggest snubs

No **Melissa McCarthy** for **"Bridesmaids"**? We're shocked. But the most glaring omission to awards-watchers is **Steven Spielberg.** Even though his two films, **"War Horse"** and **"The Adventures of Tintin,"** are nominated, he was edged out of the directing category. **David Fincher** might be feeling overlooked as well, as his **"The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo"** only pulled in nominations for **Trent Reznor**'s score and **Rooney Mara**'s performance. Also, not a single nomination for British spy thriller **"Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy."** And on the TV side, fans were hoping critical darling **"Community"** could pick up some Comedy nominations to help its fight against impending cancelation, but the series was completely overlooked.

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Film and TV nominees

Film: Best Drama
- "The Descendants"
- "The Help"
- "Hugo"
- "The Ides of March"
- "Moneyball"
- "War Horse"

Film: Best Comedy or Musical
- "50/50"
- "The Artist"
- "Bridesmaids"
- "Midnight in Paris"
- "My Week with Marilyn"

Film: Best Director
- Woody Allen, "Midnight in Paris"
- George Clooney, "The Ides of March"
- Michel Hazanavicius, "The Artist"
- Alexander Payne, "The Descendants"
- Martin Scorsese, "Hugo"

Television: Best Drama
- "American Horror Story"
- "Boardwalk Empire"
- "Boss"
- "Game of Thrones"
- "Homeland"

Television: Best Comedy or Musical
- "Enlightened"
- "Episodes"
- "Glee"
- "Modern Family"
- "New Girl"

Television: Best Mini-series or Motion Picture
- "Cinema Verite"
- "Downton Abbey"
- "The Hour"
- "Mildred Pierce"
- "Too Big To Fail"

—For the full list of nominees, visit www.metro.us

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TV watch list

'Christmas in Washington'

SPECIAL. Conan O'Brien hosts the annual Christmas concert in the capitol, but we've all seen the photos: It's performer Justin Bieber melting Sasha and Malia Obama's hearts that steals the show.
Friday, 8 p.m., TNT

'Survivor: South Pacific'

REALITY. Can Coach win it all in his redemption season? Now that God is telling him what to do, sure, why not?
Season finale, Sunday, 8 p.m., CBS

▶ President Obama and his girls celebrate Christmas with Justin Bieber.

'Saturday Night Live'

COMEDY. "Late Night" host Jimmy Fallon (and maybe his Barry Gibb) returns to the show that launched his career.
Saturday, 11:29 p.m., NBC

'Dexter'

DRAMA. Dexter races a lunar eclipse to stop the Doomsday Killers. Life was so much easier when he was just tracking down guys with a penchant for ice trucks, wasn't it?
Season finale, Sunday, 9 p.m., Showtime

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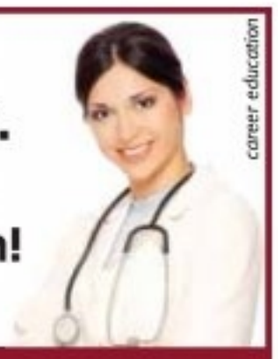

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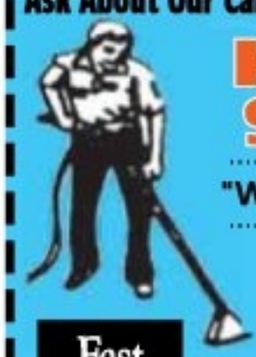

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COURTESY OF TRIBE OF FOOLS

▶ Santa has a new uniform this year.

Santa Claus gone wild

▶ 'The Return of Dirty Santa' shows another side of the holiday season's MVP ▶ Why theater company Tribe of Fools wanted to do Christmas a little different

Physical theater company Tribe of Fools had one of its earliest successes with the fundraising cabaret "Valentine's Sucks." But brainstorming for a Christmas show last year, the troupe realized that the most wonderful time of the year comes with its own share of annoyances.

"Everybody just gets so Christmased out," says Terry Brennan, Tribe of Fools' artistic director. "Everywhere you go you hear the same five Christmas carols and people trying to sell you stuff. So we decided to do a quirkier, strange take on Christmas."

The South Philly-based company hit on the idea of a Christmas burlesque, figuring that "people like drinking and stripping," according to Brennan. "It wouldn't be totally saccharine, but at the same time it didn't have to be that adolescent push-back of 'we should just burn down Christmas trees!' It's fun, it's grown-up, it's a little bit risque, but at the same time you can sit back and enjoy yourself."

This year's follow-up, "The Return of Dirty Santa," spotlights one of the inaugural edition's most popular characters as host, along with his raunchy helpers: Nasty Frosty and Horny Rudolph.

If you go

'The Return of Dirty Santa'
Dec. 22
The Skybox at the Adrienne
2030 Sansom St.
$15, 215-284-1178
www.tribeoffools.org

"It's fun, it's grown-up, it's a little bit risque."
TERRY BRENNAN, TRIBE OF FOOLS' ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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A gift fit for McQueen

Gift wrap pro Alton DuLaney gives us a primer on packaging presents perfectly Your family and friends will be just as impressed with the outside of the box as its contents

When Alton DuLaney visited this year's Alexander McQueen exhibit at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, the gift wrapping expert was inspired — and he wasn't ready to leave that inspiration behind. Instead, he's working elements from the McQueen show into his gift wrapping this year, and he gave Metro step-by-step instructions on how you can turn your own presents into beautiful works of art.

MEREDITH ENGEL
meredith.engel@metro.us

Learn how to tie a half-bow

STEP 1: Prepare. "I like to leave about a 12-inch tail. That gives me enough room."

STEP 2: Make the first tie. "Do a half-knot" — the initial loop you make when tying a bow.

STEP 3: Make the second tie. Continue as if you're tying a regular bow. "[I] make my bunny ear, but instead of pulling my bunny ear through, I'm pulling the end through."

Where he shops:

Paper Source: www.paper-source.com

The Feather Place: www.featherplace.com

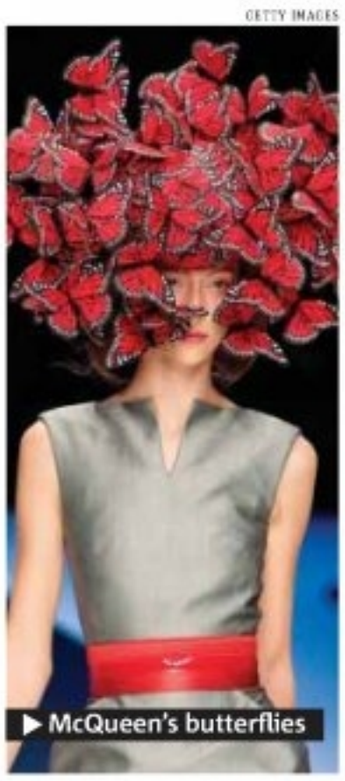
DuLaney's tips

- **Criss-cross your ribbon on top.** "You always want your bottom to be flat," he says. "If you have that bump, your gift can rock."
- **Don't cut your ribbon until the end.** "You never cut until your bow's actually tied," he says. "That way, you see how much you need and you don't waste ribbon."
- **Keep 'em separated.** "I always have a separate pair of scissors for ribbon because paper can dull [them], especially if you're cutting through glitter."

PHOTOS: EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN/METRO

▶ For a video demonstration and more gift wrapping ideas from DuLaney, visit www.metro.us/gifts.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ McQueen's butterflies

All eyes on butterflies

STEP 1: Wrap it up. "Give it a base wrap. This is just your standard gift wrap: clean corners, crisp edges. Wrap your box in whatever paper that you choose."

STEP 2: Tape it down "These butterflies all come on a wire. I'm putting everything in the center, and I'm just using my Scotch Pop-Up Tape to tape down a few of these, and then I'm just bending them out of the way."

STEP 3: Finish the look "I tape my ribbon underneath, and then you just adjust because these are all wire. Adjust them up."

▶ Step 1

▶ Step 2

▶ Step 3

▶ DuLaney's butterflies

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Pudding is taking the cake

A combination of Medjool dates, brown sugar and a sweet toffee glaze, sticky toffee pudding is the perfect holiday dessert to warm up any party How to whip up this traditional British treat and its decadent sauce

Weekend recipe

Sticky toffee pudding

What to buy: Medjools are our favorite dates to use in this recipe, though other kinds would work if you are having a hard time finding Medjools.

Ingredients for the cake:
- ½ pound dates, pitted and coarsely chopped (about 1 ¼ cups)
- ½ cup water
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 8 tablespoons unsalted butter (1 stick), at room temperature
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs, at room temperature

For the toffee sauce:
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter (¾ stick)
- ¾ cup packed light brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract or 1/2 vanilla bean, split lengthwise and seeds scraped
- ¼ cup heavy cream

Instructions for the cake:

1 Heat the oven to 350°F and arrange a rack in the middle. Coat 8 (6-ounce) ramekins with butter and flour; set aside.

2 Combine dates, water and baking soda in a small saucepan over high heat. Bring to a boil, then remove from heat and set aside.

3 Place salt and flour in a medium bowl, whisk to combine and set aside. Bring a medium pot of water to a simmer over high heat for a water bath.

4 Combine butter and brown sugar in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment and beat on medium speed until light and airy, about 5 minutes, stopping occasionally to scrape down the sides of the bowl.

▶ Difficulty: Medium | Total Time: 1 hr 30 mins | Active Time: 45 mins | Makes: 8 servings

5 Add vanilla extract, then beat in eggs one at a time, just until incorporated. Remove the bowl from the mixer and stir in date mixture until well combined, then stir in flour mixture until just incorporated (don't overmix).

6 Divide batter evenly among prepared ramekins and set them in a roasting pan or baking dish (you will likely need to use both a 13-by-9-inch dish and an 8-by-8-inch dish to fit them all). Pour simmering water into the bottom of the baking dishes until it reaches halfway up the sides of the ramekins. Very carefully place the baking dishes on the center rack of the oven. Bake until the center of each cake is just set and a cake tester inserted into the middle comes out clean, about 50 to 60 minutes. Meanwhile, prepare the toffee sauce.

Tip

Have all the cake ingredients at room temperature before beginning.

For the toffee sauce:

1 Melt butter in a medium saucepan over medium heat. When it foams, add brown sugar and vanilla extract or seeds, stir once and heat until bubbling and the color of maple syrup, about 5 minutes.

2 Carefully add cream in a slow stream while stirring, and cook until the sauce bubbles up and increases in volume, about 2 minutes; remove from heat.

3 When the cakes are finished, remove the ramekins from the oven and place on a cooling rack to come to room temperature. Once the cakes are cool, run a knife around the perimeter of each and invert to remove from the ramekins, then place upright on a serving plate. Serve the cakes at room temperature or slightly warmed, covered in warm toffee sauce.

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Jean K. Reilly, wine buyer and director at Morrell & Company — one of the oldest wine purveyors in New York City — picks bottles that will impress your drinking buddies without walloping your wallet

Burgans Albariño Rias Baixas

Spain, 2010, $15
"The national tapas craze has fueled a strong interest in Spanish wines, and this bright, zesty white is one of the reasons why. Bring this to a dinner party when you know there'll be fish on the menu — it flatters a wide variety of catches."

Tres Palacios Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva

Maipo, Chile, 2009, $11
"When I travel to wineries around the world, I ask winemakers what keeps them up at night. The No. 1 answer I get is the quality Chile is able to deliver at rock-bottom prices. Cabernet sauvignon is the flagship variety of Chile, and this is one of the best I've found. It's juicy, rich and full of ripe blackberry flavor."

Crios Malbec

Mendoza, Argentina, 2010, $15
"Malbec is the new darling in the under $15 price range, and this is one of the standouts. There's rich plum fruit here and just enough grip to pair with a hearty winter meat dish."

TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us

The Pinot Project Pinot Noir

California, USA, 2010, $15
"Pinot noir has become so popular that it's hard to find a good one that won't break the bank. But the juicy cherry fruit and velvety texture of this bottle will make your friends think you've gone all-out."

Dry Creek Vineyard Zinfandel

Sonoma, California, USA, 2009 $15
"The folks at Dry Creek have a long history with Zinfandel. This rich, lush wine has an attractive spiciness that lingers on the palate; a great way to warm up a cold winter's evening."

St. Urbans-Hof 'Urban' Riesling

Mosel, Germany, 2010, $13
"German Riesling has experienced a rebirth in the last few years. Though many Rieslings are completely dry, this one is just slightly off-dry, so it works great as an aperitif. Another great reason to bring it to a party: the cool black label."

Pisani Prosecco

Italy, Non-Vintage, $13
"There's no reason to spend a fortune on champagne for a big crowd when prosecco is all the rage — and probably appeals to a broader audience as well. This one's crisp and clean with curl-up-in-your-lap fruit flavors."

Chateau Haut Grand Champ

Bordeaux, France, 2009, $13
"Bordeaux is always welcome at a dinner party, and [it's] a great food-pairing partner — especially if your hosts are serving something along the lines of steak or roast beef. This one's ripe, smooth and a real crowd-pleaser."

Party in a box

Domaine le Garrigon Cotes du Rhone, France, 2010
$45 for 3-liter bag-in-box

"One of the hottest trends in wine is the appearance of more upscale wines in bag-in-box packaging. With the equivalent of four bottles in the box, this is a great idea for a large gathering. And the wine inside is fabulous; one of the best Cotes du Rhone of 2010!"

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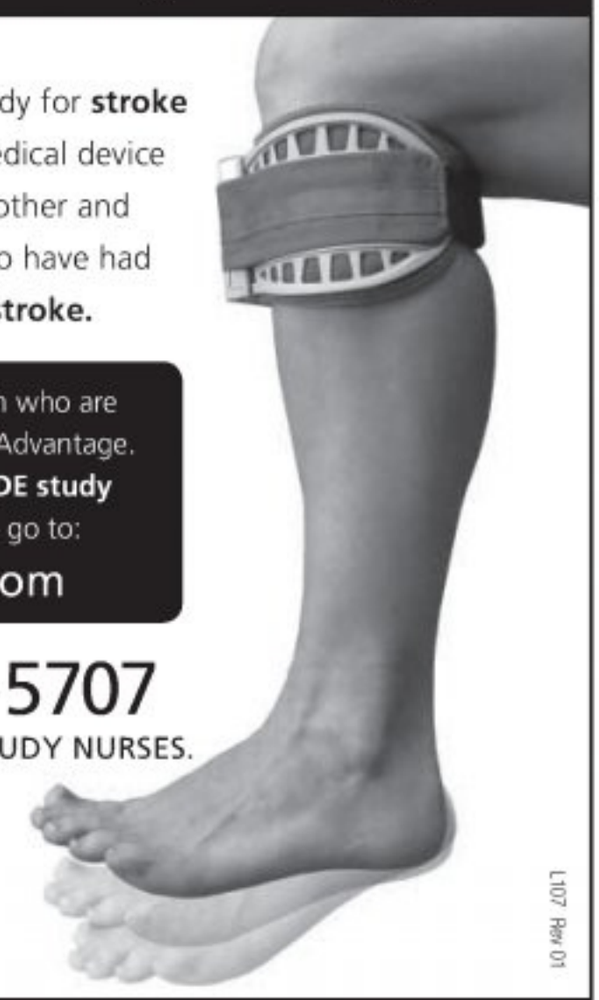

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

On Fridays, Dorothy will post the best tweets she received during the week. You can always let her know what you think — good or bad — at @dorothyatmetro.

This week, readers write in to let me know their thoughts on Ryan Seacrest possibly taking over for Matt Lauer on "Today" (consensus: eh!), @tiffanytownsend thanks me for not devoting a day to Lohan fever (they are few and far between, sadly) and @Xanderall! loved last Friday's Twitter mention so much that he's getting more today.

▶ **@CalChemical** Seacrest c/d do Today. For breaking news they c/d cut to a news desk. Today & GMA are barely news reporters anymore.

▶ **@boredgirl260** If Ryan Seacrest is our generations Dick Clark, I officially loathe our generation #seacrestsucks

▶ **@TheSagest** Ryan Seacrest << Dick Clark. In no way is Ryan a journalist, not even on New Years Rockin Eve.

▶ **@Johnheartstype** Reading @dorothyatmetro's column. Anyone else cynically suspicious of how grounded Abigail Breslin is?

▶ **@tiffanytownsend** Thank you for not giving Lindsay Lohan airtime in today's print edition. Thank you.

▶ **@Xanderall!** Imagine my surprise when I came across my tweet on today's Metro! I'm officially a newspaper contributor. Mom will be proud.

@DOROTHYATMETRO FOR UP-TO-DATE GOSSIP

Eastwood does reality TV? Unforgiven!

www.metro.us
WWW.METRO.US/WORD
DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG

The news that **Clint Eastwood** and his family are making a reality TV show is making me feel all "Dirty Harry" on the inside.

Yes, TMZ.com is reporting that Eastwood's wife and two daughters are shooting a new reality show that will explore what it's like to be "Hollywood royalty" for the E! Network. (Editor's note: All reality TV shows are about this. Change it up, people.)

Per TMZ, it will focus on the relationship between Clint's wife **Dina Eastwood**, their daughter **Morgan** and Clint's 18-year-old daughter **Francesca**. It is being produced by the same company that is also responsible for the **Kardashian** shows.

Honestly, folks, let's just give up. Because if Clint, 81, succumbs to the siren call of reality TV, there is no hope for the rest of it. It's because he and his family are "Hollywood royalty" that they don't have to sink to this, even if the focus is going to be on Francesca, an aspiring actress. (Second note: If your dad is Clint Eastwood and you need to have a reality TV show to gain traction, you must be a terrible actress.) Come on, Clint. You starred in "Gran Torino" — please don't go down without a fight.

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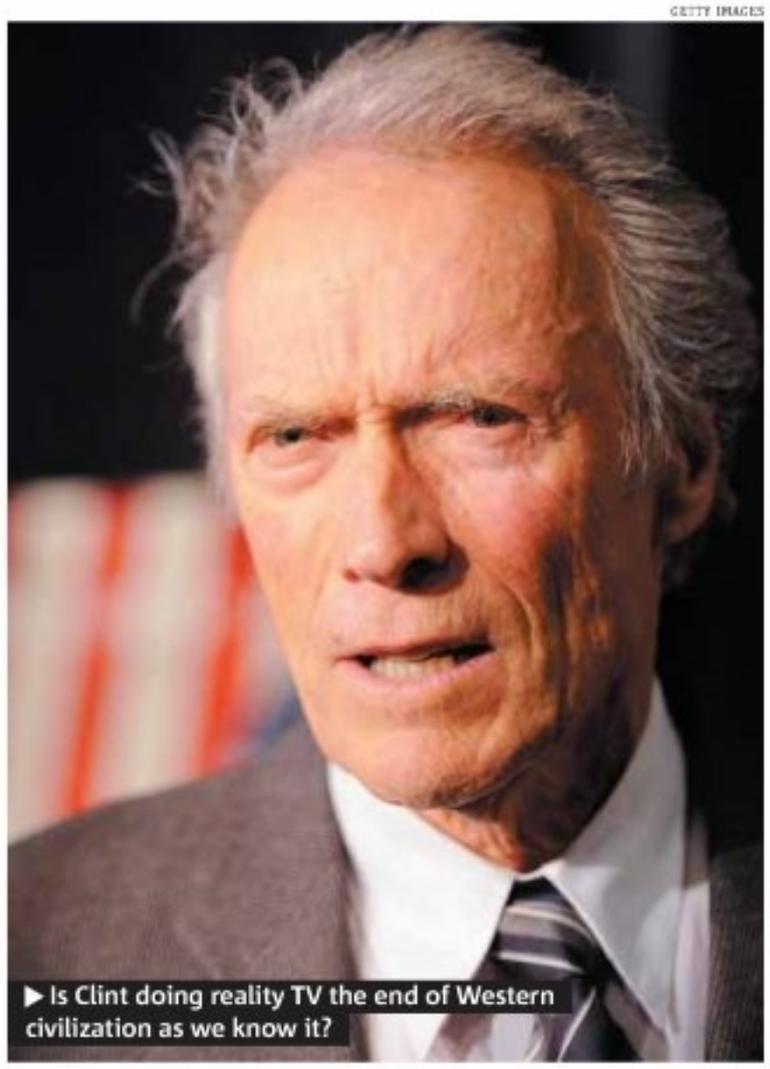

▶ Is Clint doing reality TV the end of Western civilization as we know it?

Talking points

Cyrus: These are real!

After turning heads in a low-cut dress at CNN's recent Heroes gala, **Miley Cyrus** is fighting back against speculation that she's had breast augmentation surgery. "Thank you for the compliment but these babies are all mine," she posted to Twitter in response to the claims. "I wish they'd realize you don't have to be fake to be beautiful."

JLo sells off family jewels

Jennifer Lopez is reportedly finding closure after her divorce from **Marc Anthony** and turning a tidy profit at the same time by unloading jewels he'd bought her during their marriage. "JLo also reportedly is quietly selling all the jewelry Anthony gave her — and he gave her quite a lot," a source tells the Chicago Sun-Times. "When Jennifer moves on, she totally moves on." The source also has a cryptic warning for Lopez's current flame, **Casper Smart**, noting that the dancer "will likely discover he will 'disappear' when she tires of him, too."

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ Cyrus and her "babies"

Show some brotherly love, Justin

This will make for some awkward family time at the holidays: **Justin Biel** — brother of **Jessica** — has taken to Facebook to trash **Justin Timberlake**'s tequila brand, 901 Tequila, and the lack of promotion provided by its famous founder. "I've been waiting for [Timberlake] to do something with this f—ing brand — make a song about it, put it in a godd— video, hold it up, take some pictures, I don't care. Just do something because we're dying on the motherf—ing vine here," Justin Biel says in the video. He reportedly parted ways with 901 Tequila a few weeks ago. The company is trying to make the best of it, insisting the rant was for a viral video promotional campaign that was released too early.

Clooney's tips for animal domination

George Clooney admits he wasn't afraid to play dirty to win the affections of his dog, Einstein, rescued from a shelter. Clooney had been warned that he wouldn't be allowed to adopt the dog if it didn't like him, he explains in an interview with Esquire. "I open the gate for them, and I start to panic that Einstein is not going to like me," Clooney says. "So I run into the kitchen, where I have these turkey meatballs, and I rub them all over my shoes. This woman opens the door, and who knew Einstein was such a food whore on top of everything? He throws himself at my feet."

You gotta wonder, is this also the secret to his infinite sex appeal toward women? Not gonna lie: It would work for me.

Clooney, meatball man

Dapper dudes of 2011

Last Friday, Metro featured the top dresses of 2012. This week, we look at the gentlemen who suited up to become the most dapper gents of the year.

1. What's a roundup of hot guys without Ryan Gosling? Here the actor channels some 1950s charm on the set of "Gangster Squad" in Los Angeles, Calif., in November.

2. David Beckham may not have won the Sexiest Man Alive accolade, but he certainly is one hot papi. The father of four attended the 2011 VH1 Do Something Awards with his eldest son, Brooklyn, in Hollywood, Calif., in August.

3. Who could actually pull off a suit paired with only a V-neck basic tee? Only Taylor Lautner (hello, jawlines!). Here he is at the premiere of "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn— Part 1" in Barcelona, Spain, last month.

4. An art lover and a super hottie? Yes, please. A bow-tied Ryan Kwanten attended the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's Art And Film Gala Honoring Clint Eastwood and John Baldessari in Los Angeles, Calif., last month.

5. It would be blasphemous if we didn't include Bradley Cooper on this page. Here, People's Sexiest Man Alive attended The Moet British Independent Film Awards at Old Billingsgate Market in London, England, in early December.

6. While we're not particularly thrilled about his selection of glasses, Chris Evans' suit held its own at the premiere of "Captain America: The First Avenger" in Hollywood, Calif., in July.

7. Also spotted at the LACMA event was the always-handsome Zac Efron. Efron, 24, (those Disney teen idols sure age fast!) will next be seen on the silver screen in "The Lucky One," in which he plays an ex–Marine sergeant. Efron goes military? We welcome 2012 with open arms.

1: LORY AYALA/BUZZFOTO/FILMMAGIC
2: KEVEN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE
3: MIQUEL BENITEZ/GETTY IMAGES
4: JORDAN STRAUSS/WIREIMAGE
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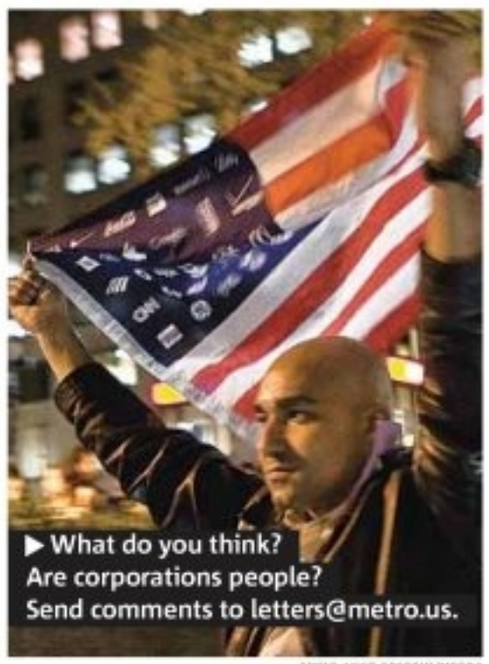
SPY A CELEB IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD? SNAP SOME PICS AT A GREAT SHOW LAST NIGHT? SEND YOUR SEEN ON THE SCENE PHOTOS TO **THEWORD@METRO.US** AND WE'LL PRINT THE BEST ONES HERE.

2011: POWER TO THE PEOPLE?

The Week That Was: Opinion

As the year of the protester draws to a close, the fight to define humanity begins in earnest. With more U.S. citizens feeling more estranged than ever from their government representatives, many have risen to condemn the excesses of politicians' principal benefactors: the powerful corporations whose funds fuel campaigns and twist legislative policy to favor their bottom lines at the expense of all else.

In Jan. 2010, the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* gave these legal entities rights previously granted only to living, breathing human beings. The U.S. high court turned campaign finance on its head by equating corporations and people, turning money into free speech.



▶ What do you think? Are corporations people? Send comments to letters@metro.us.

EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN/METRO

Of course, corporations are not actually people. For one, they cannot truly die. Take the case of private security firm Blackwater: After nasty allegations of mass murder in Iraq, the firm simply changed its name to Xe. Later, following a government settlement over unlawful international arms deals, the company switched names again, to Academi. Despite a plethora of other criminal allegations, this organization still makes millions through lucrative government contracts.

Can a corporation facilitate murder? (Yes.) Can a corporation be sentenced to prison? (No.) Can a corporation cause pain? (Yes.) Can a corporation feel pain? (No.)

Do corporations have an inordinate amount of power over our political process? (Yes.) Are we going to stand for it? (...)

BRAYDEN SIMMS
brayden.simms@metro.us

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Please send 100-word submissions to letters@metro.us.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Because your financial aspects are looking so encouraging at this time, you should look for new ways to better your lot in life. Don't waste this chance.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** An important upcoming involvement that includes a number of your friends will benefit if you take the reins. Everyone realizes this and won't make any bids for the top slot.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Some kind of financial matter that you've viewed with distaste could make an abrupt turnaround for the better. There's a lesson to be learned from this.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** A role reversal is likely to take place between you and someone who has long served as your instructor. You have some valuable information that they will want to learn from you.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** A pleasant surprise could be in the making for you. From out of nowhere, a debt or a reward that you thought would never be met will be paid in full.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Although you might not be very lucky on your own, someone you're with will be, and this person's good fortune is likely to rub off on you. Choose your companions with this in mind.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Wishful thinking might not be a frivolous pastime if it influences you to transform your fantasies into realities. Make your dreams count.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** It's OK for your mind to operate on a philosophical level, because it could make you more effective and able to see past the mere outward appearance of things.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** You're likely to finally perceive how to circumvent some kind of stumbling block that has been vexing you in your work. Make your move with vim and gusto.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Continue to just be yourself, because it encourages you to do and say all the right things. The residual effects will be an increase in your popularity with your friends and workmates.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** When it comes to matters that pertain to your work, don't hesitate to improvise your way out of dilemmas. The way you handle things will be both constructive and resourceful.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Smoother sailing is finally ahead, because the measures you take are likely to instill harmony in several areas of your life that have proven to be a bit tempestuous lately. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

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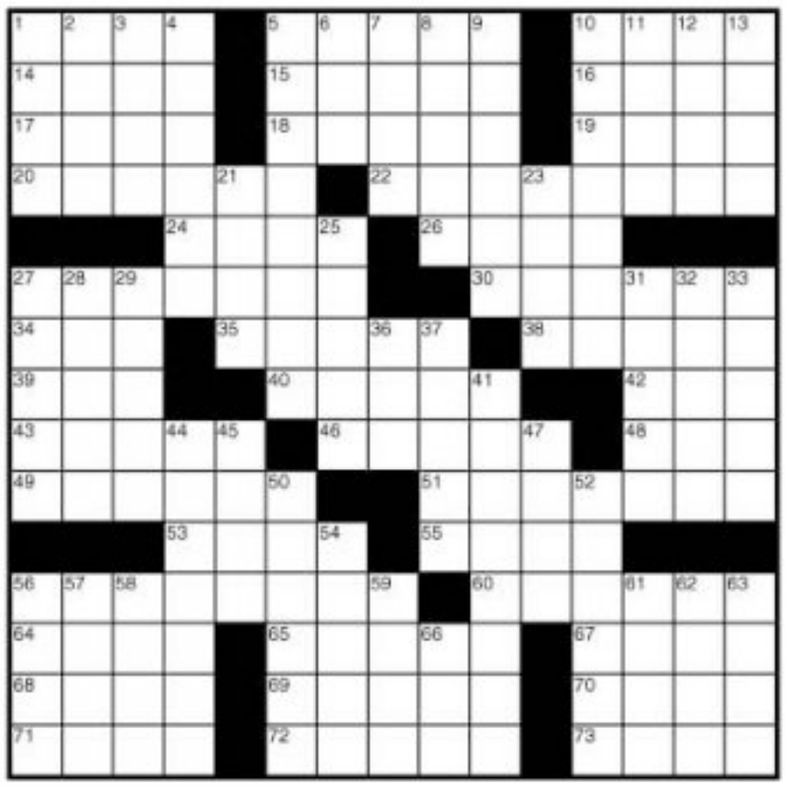
FOR MORE GAMES & PUZZLES

Across
1 Feeling of hunger
5 Opted for
10 Dinner checks
14 Aquarius' tote
15 Poe's visitor
16 Earthenware jar
17 Dry riverbed
18 Work by Homer
19 Subatomic particle
20 Computer network
22 Football play(2 wds.)
24 Spruce
26 Embodiment of grace
27 Ravines
30 Ski trails
34 Turkish potentate
35 Soy or Worcestershire
38 High-priced
39 Nanny's charge
40 Big cats
42 Opposite of post-
43 Vote in
46 Kind of eclipse
48 Feminine principle
49 Soap opera
51 Passed by
53 Any thing
55 Long-handled tool
56 Surfeits
60 Get back
64 Tot of whiskey
65 Asian capital
67 Pita sandwich
68 California wine valley
69 Piano exercise
70 Director __ Kazan
71 Skippers' OKs
72 Wearing vestments
73 Hurry

Down
1 Hard benches
2 Not at home
3 Rorem and Beatty
4 Like sand
5 Felon
6 Fictional supercomputer
7 Ancient Roman poet
8 Blackens
9 Provides funds
10 Bun
11 Et __ (and others)
12 Coalition
13 Holed, as a putt
21 Piccadilly statue
23 Comrades
25 Astronaut's garb (hyph.)
27 Birthday treats
28 Limber
29 Consumer voice
31 Prolific diarist
32 Spine-tingling
33 Go shopping
36 Sweet murmur
37 "__ the Dragon"
41 On the payroll
44 Movies
45 Southwest art colony
47 Trout habitat
50 More luxuriant
52 Fastened down a tent
54 Groovy
56 Best or Ferber
57 Fracture photo (hyph.)
58 Promontory
59 Slight
61 Jean Auel heroine
62 Late spring flower
63 Wordy Webster
66 Poem by Keats



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		7	1	2			9	3
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		6			5		8	
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	5		4			1		
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9	6			7	1	5		
3	1		9			2	4	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

1		6			8	3	5	
		4		3			8	
			5					4
	2	5	3				9	1
4	9				7	2	3	
5					2			
	8			1		5		
	6	2	8			9		7

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS: **WWW.METRO.US/PUZZLES**

Solution to Thursday's crossword

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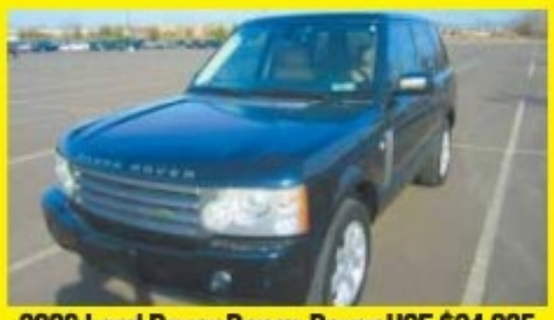
4X4, V8, Leather, OnStar, Sunroof, Wood Trim, Privacy Glass



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Know the 90 percent rule

Oddsmakers are smarter than the public, or "square" bettors. So if you see a line that seems too good to be true, it probably is.

We can quantify trap games by looking at consensus data. According Sportsinsights.com, there are three NFL games this weekend in which 90 percent of the wagers are coming in on one side. The Packers over the Chiefs, the Saints over the Vikings and the Bengals over the Rams.

However, the oddsmakers haven't adjusted their lines on these contests. That's because pro, or "sharp" bettors are betting the dogs. They know the lines on road favorites are inflated because the public is going to pound teams like the Packers no matter what.

Get on the 10 percent side this week. In the long run, you'll have the edge.

ADAM LEVITAN

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PICKS, TRICKS AND MORE

Eagles all packed for Revis Island

Jets cornerback is best in business, maybe best ever ◐ May see time on Jackson, Maclin, Avant ◐ Reid hopes to flip script on top playmaker

Darrelle Revis is the No. 1 corner in football — and it's not even close.

Those were the words uttered the other day by Jets coach Rex Ryan. And — with the exception of maybe Nnamdi Asomugha — nobody would argue.

Revis is the smartest and most physically-gifted cornerback to ever play the position. He always matches up against the opposition's best receiver, no matter where he lines up. When they do throw him into zone coverages, he's rarely out of position.

"The way we play him is unlike anything that's happened in the history of the league," Ryan said. "We lock him on the best receiver and I think that's what separates Revis from anybody else."

But Ryan wouldn't divulge who Revis would lock down Sunday.

"Whoever we decide to put him on, and it'll be a long day for that individual," Ryan said.

It could be DeSean Jackson, or it could be Jeremy Maclin. Or, it could be slot guy Jason Avant. The pair worked out together two to three years ago, according to Avant.

"His ability to be patient is his biggest asset," Avant said. "Usually, when you have guys that are fast, quick, most defensive backs are kind of frantic in their stance, but he's real calm. He knows he's the best, so he sits there and waits on you to complete your move."

Revis is so good that many teams didn't even throw his way last season, as evidenced by his zero interceptions. This season, teams have been braver and Revis has made them pay by sniping four balls. Eagles coach Andy Reid indicated that he would move his receivers around to keep the Jets guessing.

"You flip your receivers. So even if they don't flip their corners these guys … DeSean [Jackson] will be going against them, Jeremy [Maclin] will be going against them and so on and so forth," Reid said. "You don't worry too much about that, you go about your business and make sure that the routes aren't going to change according to whose covering you."

GETTY IMAGES
▶ Revis is "the best corner in football and it's not even close," according to his coach.

On the air Sunday
Jets at Eagles, 4:15 p.m. (CBS)

MIKE GREGER
mgreger@metro.us

In the AFC

STANDINGS

EAST	
PATRIOTS	10-3
JETS	8-5
BILLS	5-8
DOLPHINS	4-9
NORTH	
RAVENS	10-3
STEELERS	10-3
BENGALS	7-6
BROWNS	4-9
SOUTH	
Z - TEXANS	10-3
TITANS	7-6
JAGUARS	4-9
COLTS	0-13
WEST	
BRONCOS	8-5
RAIDERS	7-6
CHARGERS	6-7
CHIEFS	5-8

In the NFC

STANDINGS

EAST	
GIANTS	7-6
COWBOYS	7-6
EAGLES	5-8
REDSKINS	4-9
NORTH	
Z- PACKERS	13-0
LIONS	8-5
BEARS	7-6
VIKINGS	2-11
SOUTH	
Y - SAINTS	10-3
FALCONS	8-5
PANTHERS	4-9
BUCCANEERS	4-9
WEST	
Z- 49ERS	10-3
SEAHAWKS	6-7
CARDINALS	6-7
RAMS	2-11

Z- CLINCHED DIVISION
Y - CLINCHED PLAYOFF

The cold, hard football facts

A look at this weekend's NFL action through the eyes of the football stat experts at Coldhardfootballfacts.com.

Big boys thriving on home turfs

If two teams are evenly matched, the home team will generally be favored by three. Is this theory legit? It certainly is for the NFL's elite. You could argue that the Patriots, Ravens, Steelers, Colts and Packers are the five best teams of the past decade. Well, they're also the five best NFL teams at home since 2000, per CHFF point-spread analyst Mark Wald.

- **New England**
  .787, home win percentage
  .649, away win percentage
- **Baltimore**
  .755, home win percentage
  .447, away win percentage
- **Pittsburgh**
  .718, home win percentage
  .606, away win percentage
- **Indianapolis**
  .702, home win percentage
  .628, away win percentage
- **Green Bay**
  .699, home win percentage
  .547, away win percentage

FFchamps.com's 'Start and Sit'

- **Start him**
  WAS RB Roy Helu at NY
  Averages 111 rushing yards over the last three games, and should remain a home-stretch hero for fantasy owners against a Giants defense that is getting pushed around for 127 rushing yards per battle.
- **Sit him**
  PITT RB Rashard Mendenhall, at San Fran
  Performed below expectations with 76 rushing yards versus a pushover Cleveland run defense. And we're not willing to roll the dice on him against San Francisco's No. 1 run defense on their home turf on Monday Night Football.

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Vick sore, but back at practice

Eagles QB 'feeling better' after rest • Expected to start Sunday against Jets • Herremans, Jenkins ready

Good news, Eagles fans. Mike Vick was back at practice Thursday.

"I'm feeling better," Vick said. "I sat out practice Wednesday just to give my body some rest and try to get me to 100 percent by Sunday. It's a little sore when I throw, but I can tolerate it."

Prior to the Miami game, Vick had missed three weeks with broken ribs. He went 15-of-30 for 208 yards with one interception and a touchdown in that one. It doesn't get easier this week, as the Jets rank sixth in the league against the pass.

▶ Vick

Meanwhile, offensive tackle Todd Herremans (ankle) and defensive tackle Cullen Jenkins (groin) both practiced Thursday after missing Wednesday's session. Defensive end Darryl Tapp (rib) sat out for a second straight day. METRO

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WEEKEND FOOTBALL BETTING GUIDE — COLLEGE BOWL PICKS!

COWBOYS 7-6 at BUCS 4-9

SATURDAY, 8:20 P.M.

Line: Bucs +7 (O/U 47)
The Scoop: As bad as Tony Romo's record is in December, we're not laying any tuition money on Tampa.
Pick: Cowboys

PACKERS 13-0 at CHIEFS 5-8

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Chiefs +13.5 (O/U 46)
The Scoop: If Aaron Rodgers isn't enough to sell you, how about: Pack is 8-2 ATS in last 10 in December.
Pick: Packers

PANTHERS 4-9 at TEXANS 10-3

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Texans -6.5 (O/U 45)
The Scoop: Team Cam is 4-0 ATS in last four games — plus they rarely get blown out this year.
Pick: Panthers

SEAHAWKS 6-7 at BEARS 7-6

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Bears -3.5 (O/U 36)
The Scoop: Bears D too good, bet the under — but take 'Hawks (7-1 ATS in last eight vs. NFC teams).
Pick: Seahawks

SAINTS 10-3 at VIKINGS 2-11

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Vikings +6.5 (O/U 51.5)
The Scoop: Call it a hunch, Saints are 3-11 vs. teams with losing records.
Pick: Vikings

BENGALS 7-6 at RAMS 2-11

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Rams +6.5 (O/U 40)
The Scoop: We could devote a full page to why the Rams can't win or cover, but you've seen them play.
Pick: Bengals

DOLPHINS 4-9 at BILLS 5-8

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Bills +1.5 (O/U OFF)
The Scoop: Both teams have thrown in the towel. When in doubt, go with the home (snow?) dog.
Pick: Bills

TITANS 7-6 at COLTS 0-13

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Colts +6.5 (O/U 41)
The Scoop: Titans 4-1 ATS in last four roadies, plus Colts are 1-4 ATS in last four as home underdogs.
Pick: Titans

REDSKINS 4-9 at GIANTS 7-6

SUNDAY, 1 P.M.

Line: Giants -7 (O/U 46.5)
The Scoop: 'Skins won the first meeting and are 5-1 ATS in last six vs. NFC East. Hope for wind ...
Pick: Redskins

LIONS 8-5 at RAIDERS 7-6

SUNDAY, 4:05 P.M.

Line: Raiders +1 (O/U 47.5)
The Scoop: Black Hole be damned. Lions have Ndamukong Suh.
Pick: Lions

Patriots at Broncos (4:15 p.m. Sunday)

TV: CBS
LINE: Broncos +6.5 (O/U 46)

KEY INJURIES: S Brian Dawkins (neck), CB Andre Goodman (concussion) questionable. WR Eddie Royal (concussion), LB Von Miller (thumb) probable. S Patrick Chung (foot) out. CB Kyle Arrington (foot), WR Deion Branch (groin), LB Brandon Spikes (knee), CB Devin McCourty (shoulder) questionable.

THE SCOOP: This one might get higher ratings than the Super Bowl, as the Chosen One (Tim Tebow) faces the Hooded One (Bill Belichick). It's the ultimate battle between good and evil. Who wins? Well, the Pats, under Belichick are 3-6 all-time versus Denver, including three straight losses at Mile High. What's that tell us?
It's Tebow Time.
PICK: Broncos

BROWNS 4-9 at CARDINALS 6-7

SUNDAY, 4:15 P.M.

Line: Cardinals -6.5 (O/U 37)
The Scoop: Watch the line. It could change dramatically if QB Colt McCoy (concussion) is ruled out for Cleveland. With or without him, we still like the Brownies to cover against mediocre Arizona. Cleveland is 8-2 ATS in last 10 when getting at least 3.5 points on the road. Did we mention Arizona isn't that good?
Pick: Browns

JETS 8-5 at EAGLES 5-8

SUNDAY, 4:15 P.M.

Line: Eagles -3 (O/U 44)
The Scoop: We can't explain this line, at all. It's inexplicable. While we know the Jets have gone 0-8 against the Eagles all-time, we also know that the Jets are 15-3 in their last 18 roadies and the Birds are 1-8 SU in their last nine at home. Plus, Mike Vick isn't 100 percent and playing with a pair of sore ribs.
Pick: Jets

RAVENS 10-3 at CHARGERS 6-7

SUNDAY, 8:30 P.M.

Line: Chargers +3 (O/U 44.5)
The Scoop: San Diego is 4-9 ATS this year and 2-6 ATS in their last eight games. Ravens win comfortably.
Pick: Ravens

STEELERS 10-3 at 49ERS 10-3

MONDAY, 8:20 P.M.

Line: n/a
The Scoop: Off the board until we know if Big Ben plays. It's doubtful. Stay away even if he's cleared.
Pick: Steelers

ND 8-4 at FSU 8-4

DEC. 29, 5:30 P.M.

Line: Florida State -3
The Scoop: The Seminoles are playing in their home state for the Champs Sports Bowl.
Pick: Florida State

RUTGERS 8-4 at IOWA ST. 6-6

DEC. 30, 3:20 P.M.

Line: Rutgers -2
The Scoop: The Pinstripe Bowl is right in the Knights' backyard, so they'll be motivated.
Pick: Rutgers

WAKE 6-6 at MISS ST. 6-6

DEC. 30, 6:40 P.M.

Line: Mississippi State -7
The Scoop: The Music City Mediocrity Bowl! Go SEC.
Pick: Mississippi State

IOWA 7-5 at OKLAHOMA NO. 14, 9-3

DEC. 30, 10 P.M.

Line: Oklahoma -10
The Scoop: Oklahoma didn't expect to be playing in the Insight Bowl. Still they're much better.
Pick: Oklahoma

UTAH 7-5 at GA TECH 8-4

DEC. 31, 2 P.M.

Line: Georgia Tech -3.5
The Scoop: The Sun Bowl is always a sneaky good game. We go with the BCS conference school here.
Pick: Georgia Tech

UCLA 6-7 at ILLINOIS 6-6

DEC. 31, 3:30 P.M.

Line: Illinois -3
The Scoop: Illinois has lost five straight. The Fight Hunger Bowl is in San Fran, let's go with the Cali boys.
Pick: UCLA

CINCINNATI 9-3 at VANDERBILT 6-6

DEC. 31, 3:30 P.M.

Line: Vanderbilt -3
The Scoop: The Liberty Bowl is in Memphis, but total Big East disrespect here.
Pick: Cincinnati

VIRGINIA 8-4 at AUBURN NO. 25, 7-5

DEC. 31, 7:30 P.M.

Line: Auburn -1.5
The Scoop: Michael Dyer was suspended, but we still like the SEC.
Pick: Auburn

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Holy War gets new look, expect amped-up crowd

Jay Wright played at the old Fieldhouse at Saint Joseph's University when he was a member of Bucknell's team.

It was a raucous atmosphere back then.

Expect that environment to be amped up even more when he guides Villanova against the Hawks in the Holy War Friday night at Hagan Arena for the first career matchup on Hawk Hill.

"I remember [former St. Joe's guard] Bryan Warrick lit me up," Wright said.

On Saturday

Villanova at Saint Joseph's, 8 p.m.

"That was my last memory. They went four corners and I was trying to guard him. My coach was yelling at me and he was blowing by me. It was crowded then, now it's bigger, nicer."

St. Joe's is off a 7-3 start with a win over nationally-ranked Creighton. The Wildcats are 6-4 and struggling somewhat to find their identity through 10 games without a scholarship senior on their roster.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Martelli

Villanova has won three straight and six of the last seven against the Hawks. St. Joe's last won on Feb. 4, 2008, at the Palestra. This time, the scene shifts to Hagan Arena with a vastly improved group of Hawks.

"Certainly, to have the opportunity to play against Villanova on our campus is really special," St. Joe's coach Phil Martelli said. "The people at Villanova, from the coaches to the AD to everyone, have been very supportive of this decision. It's going to be a wonderful thing to have Big 5 basketball on our campus."

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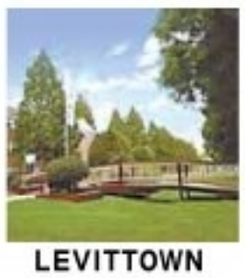

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The Belmont Charter Schools' Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals or to accept the proposal that it finds, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the school district.

A walk-through meeting is scheduled for Jan. 4, 2012 at 2pm at 907 N. 41st Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. All questions should be submitted via email prior to the walk-through to Kelly.Smith@cea-philly.org.

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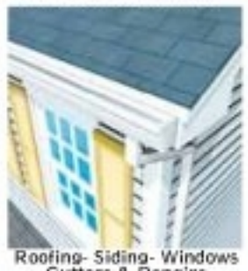
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BED **Brand New Queen** Pillow top Mattress Set in plastic w/warranty $175. Delivery avail. 215-355-3878

Craft Show & Holiday Bazaar
at Burlington Center Mall
Dec. 19-24, 2011
Wanted: Crafters & Hobbyist
Cost: $20 per space/per day in advance.
Holiday Gift Basket Drawings for Vendor Sign-ups
Sign-up Now! Space is limited
For Holidays-Gift Wrapping provided for donation.
Call: 609-531-3082 or Online: www.fmfginc.org
Presented by: FMFG, Inc. A Burlington County nonprofit organization

Articles for Sale

Phila Flea Markets Presents
"The Spring Garden Indoor Flea Market"
Every Saturday Now Thru March
Closed Sat, Dec 24th & Dec 31st
More Than 60 Vendors Featuring Antiques, Collectibles, Vintage Furniture, Jewelry, Glassware, Pottery, One Of A Kind Items & Just Plain Fun Junque!
Go On A Treasure Hunt! Bargains Galore!
8AM til 4PM But Early Birds Welcome!
The Former Fed-Ex Service Center
820 Spring Garden Street (9th & Spring Garden) 19123
Free Parking / Free Admission / ATM / Food Court / Handicap Accessible
Our Vendors Accept All Major Credit Cards!

215 - 625 - FLEA (3532)
www.PhilaFleaMarkets.org

Jobs

General Help Wanted

Housekeepers
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No exp. To $14/hr.
PAL, 107 W. Girard.
215-203-8745 Fee

CUSTOMER SERVICE
Phila. & surrounding areas
- No exp. necessary
- Training provided
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- Competitive pay

For an interview, please call Ms. Rose at (215) 207-0998

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